

THE STAR'S

WORKING NO

News...News...News...News...News...News...New

GBM distributes Lexmark products

■ Gulf Business Machines have been appointed official regional agents for the Lexmark International company. Lexmark is a company which deals with information technology and was set up nine months ago to develop, produce, market and support personal printers, office tools and workstation control consoles. The products will carry the IBM badge due to a special agreement between Lexmark and IBM, enabling them to use the name since IBM owns 10 percent of the company.

The final plans for distribution in the region are being put together at the moment. IBM distributors and business partners in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Gulf States (except Saudi Arabia), all of whom benefit from the services offered by GBM



GBM and Lexmark officials at the signing ceremony

should be responsible for distributing Lexmark products.

Mr Robert Kikano, General Manager of the Personal Systems department at GBM commented on the new alliance:

"The personal printers market is a very competitive and huge one, and marketing these products should be of great importance to GBM and IBM agents in the region."

■ Comcent are celebrating 20 years of service in the Jordanian computer sector. The company is best known amongst Jordanian computer users for faithfully providing them with services regarding the sales and support of Citizen printers. The Workstation team extends its congratulations to Comcent and wish them continued success.

■ IBM have recently patented a new system in the USA capable of Arabic Optical Character Recognition (AOCR). This system is capable of scanning documents written in the Arabic language which are stored as different characters converted into ASCII, allowing the user to process and change the text through the keyboard. Exciting, isn't it? We'll be giving you an in-depth look into that very soon.

■ More figures about sales of major computer companies in the world after IBM's shocking losses. Apple Computer



Inc. made \$1.8 billion in the last three months of 1991, if you can believe that. What's more the new machines: The PowerBook, Quadra, Classic 2 accounted for most of these sales. Microsoft also had a good six months with a turnover of 1.3 billion ending December 1991. Poor old IBM, it kind of makes you want to go out and splash all your money on a PS/2.

■ We've got a batch of news from NCR who have just been honored by Byte magazine's editors for their 3125 pen-based notepad by being given their annual award of distinction. NCR

have also signed an agreement with Synthesis to provide computer-aided software engineering on NCR's system 3000 running a Unix environment. By combining CASE/AP with the system 3000, users will have one of the most open and powerful systems available which should be capable of responding to a constantly changing business environment. CASE/AP is currently being used by over 140 institutions world-wide.

■ French Cultural Aid have provided Jordan with a computer information network to help tourists find their way around the country by providing them with basic information. The network comprises a central computer and 40 Minitel terminals. The network was part of a joint cooperation in the field of tourism.

■ Computer news from the Gulf includes the opening of the biggest computer show yet in Saudi Arabia on Sunday. The Middle East Computer Expo is even bigger than the GITEC show, which has for so long been the biggest computer event in the region.

The Superpowers



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INTERFACE

Putting technology in your lap

SOMETIMES TECHNOLOGY fascinates me. Just imagine, only ten years ago, the most portable computer weighed around 11 kg and was shaped like a sewing machine. Today, it is quite normal to have a 5 pound laptop which is even more powerful than the 11 kg monster which preceded it, or even the more shocking notebook computers which are miniature wonders.

Well, it is a known fact that great technology springs from a need to advance. So what is the secret of this notebooks/laptops/portables craze we are currently going through?

First and most important of all, the portability provided by these computers, coupled with the importance of having daily access to computers today is a main reason why people are buying these computers. In Europe alone, the market for laptops and notebooks grew from 458,500 units in 1989 to an impressive 725,100 units early last year. This actually means that one out of every ten PCs sold in Europe today is a laptop and that at least one out of every five is a notebook computer.

Another reason is the importance of mobility in certain professions and industries. Portables can solve a lot of problems for salesmen, for instance. Providing services for the customer, typing sales offers and keeping simple accounts and notes are merely basic examples of what a computer can do for a salesman.

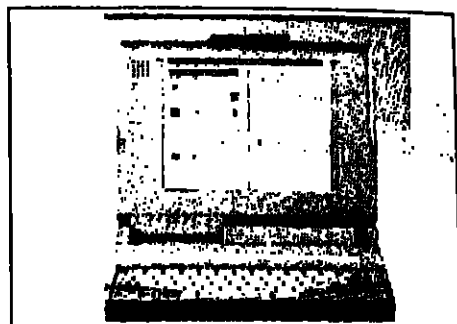
Portables are even more useful higher up the corporate ladder. It is estimated that managers and directors are the biggest buyers of laptop computers. The services they present to them include word-processing, spreadsheets and databases, which can be done on these machines with the added attraction of being able to take your work home.

Dataquest predicts that notebook sales will top 6.5 million by 1994 and portables will make up nearly 40 percent of the PC market compared to 17 percent today.

The competition resulting from the situation is pretty fierce. Everyone wants a piece of the cake. Major computer manufacturers like Apple, who managed to sell 100,000 PowerBook notebook computers in the last three months, and IBM have made impressive contributions to the market. Also, major Japanese electronics manufacturers like Toshiba take the lead in the European notebook market with a big 43.1 percent market share. The potential is huge and the market can only get bigger with buyers taking immediate advantage of the sliding prices and increasing facilities on offer.

The British Ministry of Defense purchased Zenith notebooks for use by army officers in the Gulf War. Big companies, with a large work force, are said to be purchasing portables by the hundred, especially companies comprising hundreds of sales people. But to what extent are portable computers used while travelling? Research suggests that a majority of 37.4 percent are used in the office and 19.3 percent are used in offices other than the users' while 33.8 percent are used at home. Only 9 percent of these computers are actually used on the move. So the general picture you get is that users can do fine without portables, but prefer them to desktops!

How would you feel about carrying a portable computer around? What about walking into a class with a notebook computer rather than a stack of paper, or opening up a laptop rather than opening up a briefcase? It might stir a few laughs at first and it could prove to be much more expensive than a copybook, but it should serve you very well and could help you get over your usual mess. As for me, I'm quite happy with typing this column on a desktop computer every week. Nevertheless, any considerable "portable" presents will not be refused.



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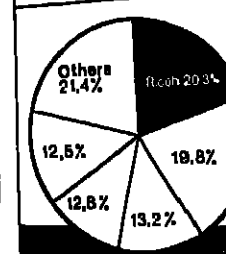
■ Computer Clinic

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 13 — 19 FEBRUARY 1992, VOLUME 2, NUMBER 49

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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

JORDAN

W E E K

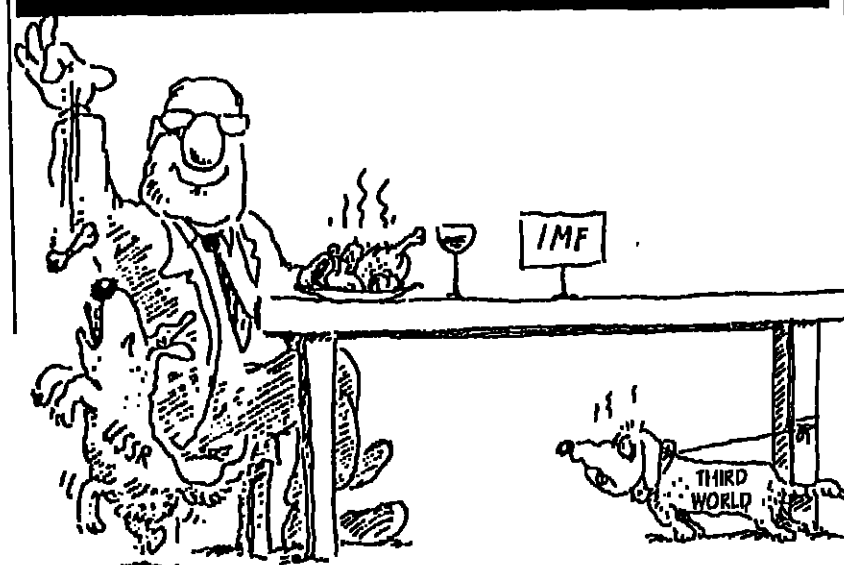
A non-conventional look at

Jordanian affairs:

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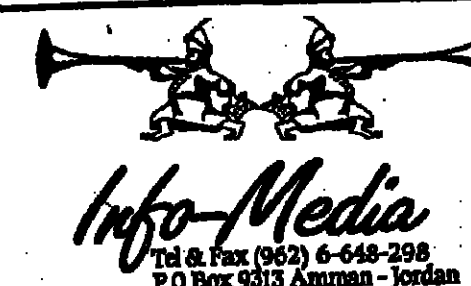
This month's WorldPaper looks into the power and prestige of the IMF and the World Bank. From Eastern Europe to Asia, these two institutions have never been more powerful. Is their power something to fear or cheer?

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Le "Monsieur météo"
Jordanien sur la brèche

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The Star

JORDAN

WEEK

The storm that slipped in

Jordanians who were full of praise for the Meteorological Dept. for its accurate predictions since the snow storms started, turned against the department for failing to predict the worst snow storm yet this year on Sunday and Monday. They say the weather man appeared on TV Saturday evening to assure Jordanians that only light snow fall was expected on Sunday and only in the northern parts of the kingdom. As a result most families sent their children to school in the morning, only to see them come back two hours later as heavy snow fall caused confusion in the streets. Meteorological Dept. sources said the shallow low pressure deepened during the night and early morning hours and had taken all meteorologists by surprise. One source jokingly said that this depression slipped in because the department's General Secretary Dr Ali Abandah was in Geneva to attend an international symposium on the world's climate.

Only JD 4 million?

Greater Amman Municipality is putting aside over JD 4 million out of its JD 51 million budget for this year to repair streets and asphalt new ones. Some people may think that this figure is too low considering the heavy damages brought by snow on our roads. But those who know say it would not make any difference since most of the repaired roads will be damaged again next winter. Remember the Gardens Street (Wasfi Al Tal)? Ad-

Dustour columnist Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud accused contractors of cheating by not following accepted asphalt mix standards. He also called on the government to study asphalt standards in countries that have regular snow fall so as to apply these standards on Jordan's roads.

Because they're women

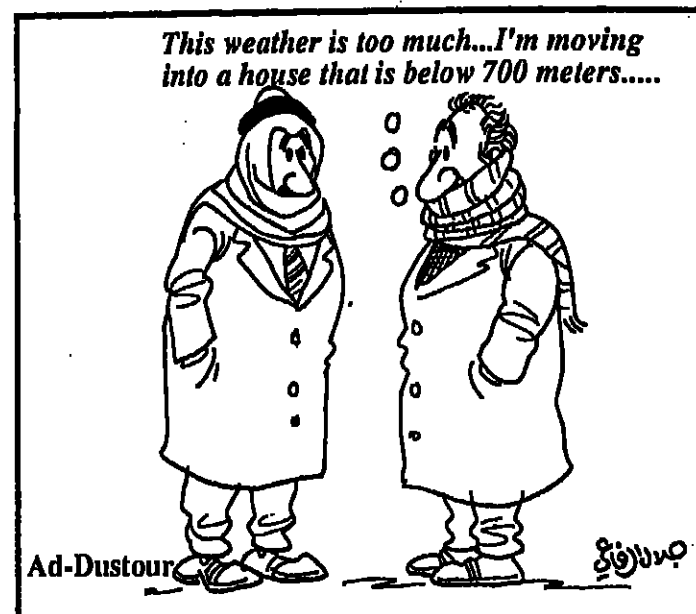
Al Rai's political columnist Tareq Massarueh turned his sharp pen against the Ministry of Health in defense of the ministry's female employees who he says are denied health insurance just because they are women. Mr Massarueh said he would have supported a call for a strike by these employees. The writer called on the prime minister to end this cruel injustice. So far no comment from the minister of health.

It's doctors' turn

The National Society for the Protection of Consumers has launched a war on doctors. It says the Doctors' Association has abused its right to set doctors' fees leading to a high increase in those fees over a short time. The society is asking the minister of health to intervene and review current fees so that medical services will be affordable to all citizens. Naturally the health minister "responded" to the society's call and "promised" to do all that he can "to make consumers' life easier".

Purely business

The Civil Aviation Authority



(CAA) has made a feast of the fact that Saudi Arabia's national airline, Saudia, will commence service to Amman from the 18th of this month. Saudia stopped flights to Amman during the Gulf Crisis, while Royal Jordanian (RJ) maintained its scheduled flights to Saudi cities in addition to the Gulf. Observers see the return of Saudia as an indication of a thaw in Jordanian-Saudi relations. Others say it doesn't mean a thing, politically speaking. The resumption of Saudia flights makes good business sense, they say, for the Saudi carrier which will run three weekly flights between Amman on one side and Jeddah and Riyadh on the other.

Enough nepotism

Ad-Dustour's columnist Mohammad Daoudieh has accused some deputies of using their position to "blackmail" companies into appointing their relatives and friends in these companies. He said while some companies succumbed to these threats for a while in order to avoid clashes with those deputies, they now say that they had enough. According to Daoudieh, a number

of companies have threatened to retaliate by making the letters and personal cards sent in by the deputies public information. Mr Daoudieh encouraged the companies to do so in order to put an end to this style of interference by deputies in the work of public companies, which according to him, has caused many deserving Jordanians to lose work opportunities.

It's just another show!

Jordanian political thinker Mr Amin Shugair has written an open letter in Ad-Dustour daily to the Minister of Culture Dr Mahmoud Al Samra calling on him to support theater in Jordan. He said that after attending "Zaman Al Shaqlaba" by the Abu Awad troupe, he was shocked when he was told that the tax law in Jordan applies the same tax measures on theaters as it does on night clubs. Mr Shugair reminded his readers of the noble role of the theater in all

countries in focusing attention on social ailments and in furthering the development of culture.

Arafat's right to marry

Palestinians in Jordan had mixed reactions to the news that the 62-year-old Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had married his 28-year-old aide Suha Tawil. Some received the news with skepticism saying that the Palestinian leader could not have "divorced the cause" after so many years of self-imposed celibacy. Others took a more apologetic line defending Arafat's right to a married life after a life-long struggle and sacrifices. But as no official announcement has been made yet, the controversy continues. One Palestinian was quoted as saying that "Arafat is a human after all, and that like any man he would like to see his children. It's a message to all Palestinians." Another Palestinian writer in the West Bank defended Arafat's marriage by reminding scornful Israelis that one of their leaders, Levy Ashkol, also wedded a young Israeli when he was over 60.

What we eat

Jordan's imports of foodstuff and livestock in the first eight months of last year were put at JD 241.79 million. Of this figure JD 3,457 million went to importing live animals, JD 4,419 to meat products, JD 1,570 million to dairy and eggs, JD 7 million to sugar, JD 1,197 million to fruits and nuts and JD 742,000 to tea and cocoa. These figures should help in constructing a chart that shows the eating habits of the average Jordanian.

Mohammed is Israel's favorite baby's name!

IN ISRAEL last year, the most popular name for newborn babies was not Moshe, or Rachel, but Mohammed. Third most popular, according to Israeli Interior Ministry figures, was Ahmed.

The explanation lies in the fact that the birth rate among Israel's Arab minority is much greater proportionately, than among the Jewish population, a trend which has profound long-term political implications.

Official figures show that in 1991, Israel's 4.1m Jews produced 71,000 babies, while the Arab population of 900,000 produced 30,000. The official Arab numbers include 150,000 in occupied East Jerusalem but not those in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israeli concern to prevent a steady erosion of the Jewish majority is one of the reasons the country's leaders have rejoiced at the flood of Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union over the past two years. It is also one of the reasons why there is anxiety over a recent fall in the numbers of olim, or immigrants, arriving from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In 1991 and 1990, immigration totalled more than 370,000, the vast majority coming from Russia and other former Soviet states. This boosted annual Jewish population growth to more than 5 per cent, ahead of the Arab rate of about 3 per cent for the first time in some years.

With officials confidently predicting the arrival of a further 600,000 to 700,000 Jews from the CIS by mid-decade, the Israeli fear that the Arab minority would within three decades account for more than one quarter of the population — gaining, for example, enough electoral power to make or break governments — receded. Officials talked of the Jewish state gaining "critical mass."

However, the severe economic difficulties engendered by immigration, particularly unemployment of 10 per cent and rising, have recently been blamed for a sharp decline in the numbers of immigrants from the CIS.

In January, immigration totalled just under 7,375, of whom 6,237 were from former Soviet territories the lowest monthly count since the explosion of Soviet emigration in late 1989. The official view is still that a total of 1m Jews from CIS will come to Israel over the next five years.

If so, the Jewishness of the Jewish state will be cemented. But in the broader context of both Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip the immigration wave is not expected to delay for very long the catch-up effect of a faster Arab birth-rate. ■ FT

After the blizzard Cabinet decides to compensate farmers, repair damages

JORDAN (Star) — The government of Sharif Zaid ben Shaker has taken measures to compensate farmers and low-income citizens for damages caused by snow and floods which affected Jordan during the last few weeks. The cabinet decided Tuesday to extend interest-free loans through the Agricultural Credit Corp.

Other farmers will be entitled to loans from the corporations under normal credit procedures. The government will undertake 75 per cent of these compensations.

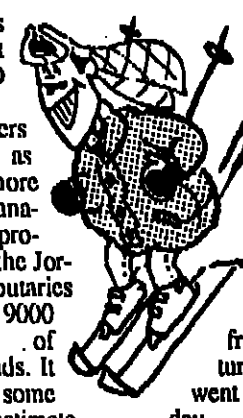
The cabinet took these decisions after it was briefed by a special ministerial committee, which was formed recently to look into damages caused by climate conditions. It also decided to look into compensating low-income and poor citizens through the National Aid Fund, provided that the government undertakes 50 per cent of the cost of these compensations. The government has instructed concerned ministers to move to repair damage to infrastructure such as bridges, roads, telecommunications and others. Funding for these repairs will come from the emergency budget and from relieving the capital expenditures budget.

The cabinet has also decided to take measures to set up an agricultural insurance fund and to build new dams throughout the kingdom. Special committees will prepare the necessary studies before action is taken.

There are no detailed figures

for the cost of damages yet, but some sources put the figure at more than JD 5 million.

Jordan Valley farmers were the most to suffer as frost and ice destroyed more than 28,000 dunums of banana plantations and other produce, while floods along the Jordan River and tributaries inundated an estimated 9000 dunums of farmed lands. It will take some time to estimate the cost of repairing roads, dams and aqueducts, water meters, water pipes and pumping and water treatment stations, electricity grids and power stations.



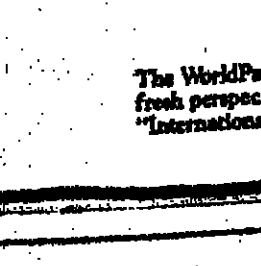
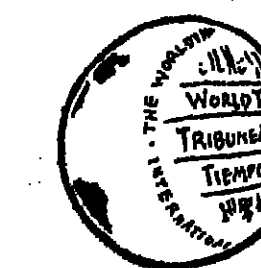
Minister of Water and Irrigation Mr Samir Kassar estimated the cost of damages to water infrastructure at JD 1.345 million, but sources expected this figure to rise after the unprecedented freezing temperatures that the country went through on Monday.

On the other hand, there is no immediate estimate of losses to private property like cars, buildings and machinery. The same can be said about losses due to delays in production and transportation. ■



Brrrr...but it's over!

Jordanians do not remember a colder or whiter winter than this year's. February has been a record month in terms of the number of snow blizzards, the amount of rainfall, the low temperatures and the number of days people were snowed in. But according to meteorologists the polar air coming from eastern Europe has changed direction, and future depressions will originate from the western Mediterranean bringing rain and warmer temperatures. The first such rainy front is expected to affect Jordan today.



"It was the best of times..."

January 1992

The WorldPaper rings in the New Year in twenty-three countries on four continents in seven language editions, including English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and Russian. A special section on international affairs in leading national newspapers and magazines, The WorldPaper presents the voices of the world speaking for themselves. Our editors are leading journalists and experts native to the regions about which they report. They examine vital world issues, not as headlines or info-bits, but as part of the process of world change and development.

The year that has passed featured cover stories on global issues ranging from environmental accounting in "Green Ink: Bookkeeping for Earth, Inc.," to the growing numbers of displaced persons worldwide in "Migration: People Moving; People Running" to the new global dynamic of world trade in "Blossoming Trade Blocs."

We examined the stunning events in the USSR in "Soviet Union or Disunion" in May and "From Revolution to Revolution" in October. Other cover titles included, "After War What?", "Middle East Money," "Japan: A Nation Wrestling with Itself" and "Good News from Africa."

The diversity of viewpoints creates a balanced, pluralistic and informative coverage which makes The WorldPaper distinctive in international journalism.

Appearing around the world in more than one million copies, The WorldPaper is published exclusively in Jordan by



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مركز اللغة

Nazik Al-Hariri Centre: A haven for special people

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

EXPECTING TO find an institute struggling with financial burdens and in modest grounds, it comes as some surprise to see the Nazik Al-Hariri Center for the mentally handicapped has to offer. The first thing one sees is a wall to wall carpeted area with a sunken center, an area which center director Dr Yaser Salem described as the "multi-purpose room", where everyone gathers in the morning.

This center serves as both a school and a vocational center. It has some 200 members, with an age range from only six years up to 24 years, with classes starting at kindergarten level.

Studies here are in a conventional classroom-teacher situation, yet the atmosphere is pleasant and the teacher is attentive to each student's needs. Students are brought early by bus in the morning and leave in the afternoon, for there are no boarding facilities. Having worked through the vocational level, the students reach the final vocational level, where skills such as weaving and carpentry are taught.

Many cases are referred to the center by the Ministry of Social Development or staff from other schools. A specialist in special education and psychology, Dr



Heading for the Special Olympics: The Nazik Al-Hariri team

Salem said that sometimes parents do not realize that their children are mentally retarded until they are of school-going age. "Even then," he said, "it can take up to five years before a parent finds out that there is something wrong with his child."

From his experience, Dr Salem feels that today's parents find it easier to accept that their child is mentally handicapped; the parents themselves have formed a social awareness committee that aims at integrating their children into the community.

Moving away from the classroom facilities, there is a physiotherapy room and a television room, a library is available, and

there is a computer system that teaches basics such as shapes. Peacocks and other animals can be seen through glass walls in an in-house garden.

Some of the older women can be seen in another area, weaving busily. Siham is in her early twenties and is happy to see a visitor. She energetically continues to work at her carpet, adding a new cord every now and again. Traditional carpets such as hers can be bought at very competitive prices and special designs can be ordered, for this is how Siham and others like her earn their living.

A vocational carpentry workshop for 24 males is also housed

at the center. Young men craft items of furniture, and are happy to stop and chat. They seem content as they saw and hammer away in their own private world. Dr Salem pointed out that the reason behind the workshop was: "We just want to give them a chance to gain some skills like the others." He added that these patients are very independent and can accomplish a lot.

Dr Salem said sadly that some skilled but mentally handicapped adults are not so lucky. "It is unfortunate that some employers take advantage of a mentally retarded person, to make him or her work more hours and more laborious tasks," he said. He added that patients such as these are seen to make very good employees because they accept any sort of job and do exactly what they are trained to do.

He commented on the current debate over a law for handicapped persons, their right to education, health and employment. He said that a team is now pushing for the establishment of an organization which will take care of these people in case they are found to be alone in the world - rather like an old people's home.

The purpose of this center, said Dr Salem, is to provide direct services to its members; services which include training, teaching, behavior modification, health and dental care, and trans-

portation. Most members are charged for the services that they receive (although the monthly expenses for each "client" runs to around JD 120), as the center is totally financed by Mr and Mrs Rafiq Al-Hariri. Indeed, services are also provided to develop special education in Jordan. At the center's plush lecture room, parent and teacher workshops are held, and visiting specialists from abroad give lectures.

Exciting events in the pipeline for the center are the upcoming 1993 Winter Olympics and the 1995 Summer Olympics. This will not be the first time that the center has participated, since from 1987 up to 1991 the center has made it a policy to take part. In 1991 four athletes from the center went to Minnesota, where they won two gold, two bronze and one silver medal. 96 countries joined in, of which six were from the Arab world.

The team participated in many events such as track and field, running and long jump. Other special teams included an ice skating, roller skating, basketball, ping pong, and swimming team, who are all trained by volunteers at local centers. As the 1993 winter Olympics approach in Austria, the ice skating team is busily in training, while the center's sportsmen and women participate in inter-center competitions on a more local level.

Jordan's holiday-makers spot Sri Lanka's tourist potential

By Bede Perera
Special to The Star

"SRI LANKA is now the place for Jordanians and 1992 will prove that it will be one of their major destinations." This was the assessment of Sri Lanka's tourist potential in the new year by Mr Shafiq Maqboul, the Sri Lankan area manager of Royal Jordanian Airlines, which opened its services to Colombo recently.

With offices in the sprawling Taj-Samudra Hotel, Mr Maqboul thinks that 1992 will be a very good year for Sri Lanka. "Things are settling down and the country's image abroad has improved dramatically," he said. "People are realizing that this is a safe country to visit - either to have a refreshing, quiet holiday or to do business in a holiday atmosphere." Already brochures and other publicity material on Sri Lankan tourism are being snapped up in Jordan.

A group of journalists who came from Jordan and assessed Sri Lanka's tourist potential said of their impressions: "Our tour of this wonderful country with these smiling, hospitable people has changed our outlook. We used to think of the island only as a source of maids and cheap labor. We have now discovered the other side to these well educated, tolerant people and this fantastic country. In fact Sri Lanka is an exciting destination that offers tourists the warmest welcome and the best facilities at a very reasonable cost."

Since the inauguration of Royal Jordanian here a series of three articles about Sri Lanka have been featured in 'The Star'. Another article has appeared in the major daily Arabic paper 'Al-Dustour' and another in the Arabic daily 'Al-Rai'.

Mr Osama El-Sherif, editor-in-chief of 'The Star' said, "During the few days we spent in Sri

Lanka, we were introduced to the country's past and present. We also had the opportunity to share with some Sri Lankans their hope for the future. For me the island's greatest asset is its people; friendly, simple and confident of themselves. Wherever we went, we were received with smiles and hospitality. This happiness is a great resource, one which Sri Lankans are putting to good use."

According to Mr Maqboul, it is the beaches, the cool green uplands, (that are on a par with Switzerland) and the sports and specialist activities that draw Jordanians to Sri Lanka, but the biggest attraction is its great historical civilization and works of art, architecture and culture, which have great similarities to those of their own country.

There are now two Royal Jordanian Flights to Colombo from Amman, with connections all over the Middle East, North



Reproduction of an ancient sculpture of Sri Lanka

America and Europe. Royal Jordanian is trying to develop tourist potential from places where Airlanka is not flying, such as Madrid. "Royal Jordanian does not compete with Airlanka, it only complements it," emphasized Maqboul.

Royal Jordanian's opening of flights to Sri Lanka has brought about a host of other mutually useful things: Tourism, business and trade and increased human understanding.

An air freight service has been started by the airline, giving a big boost to Sri Lanka's export trade. Started on January 15, it is helping with the movement of

garments, leather, rubber products and electronics components to Europe and the U.S. The freight service is now continuing on a weekly basis, flying every Wednesday.

THE STAR
648298

By Fahd A. Salameh

ONE OF Jordan's foremost literary figures, Mr Mo'nis Arrazzaz is a writer whose works normally provoke some rather unorthodox responses from his readers. His most recent work, which we shall examine below, is certainly in keeping with this tradition. A two-part novel containing *The Desecrated Memory* and *A Head and Two Hats*, this work is probably one of the masterpieces of our own literature.

Son of the well-known Jordanian political thinker, Moncef Arrazzaz, Mo'nis was born in 1951. He studied at the Bishop's School, where he showed a gift for creative writing. In 1973, he enrolled at the University of Baghdad, where he studied philosophy. It was during this period that he published his first novel.

After graduating in 1976, he worked as an editor for the Iraqi daily newspaper *Al-Thawrah*, continued regularly to the *Palastin Affairs Magazine*, became a departmental head at the Jordanian Municipality Library, and is presently working as an editor for the Jordanian daily newspaper *Ad-Dustour*.

Arrazzaz is a member of the Jordanian Association of Writers and has produced eight works of fiction, in addition to his countless essays and articles which have been published in Jordanian and other Arab newspapers and journals. He has also translated a number of books from English and other foreign languages into Arabic. He was awarded the State Prize for Literature in 1989-90 and the Teisour Prize for fiction by the Jordanian Writers Association in 1991.

The Desecrated Memory and *A Head and Two Hats* are two short novels in one volume, published by The Arab Publishing Foundation for Research in Beirut in 1991. The first novel occupies more than two-thirds of the book and is probably the easier of the two novels to comprehend.

Second novella, *A Head and Two Hats* presents a philosophical reading of Man's dilemma where the struggle for power and the struggle for survival clash at a pivotal point. The novel features two characters, a bald man and a one-eyed man, murder the owner of a building and establish an alliance between them to take over the affairs of the tenement. But this alliance almost immediately breaks down as a result of their competition for power.

The story is a symbol of the struggle for the safety and security of the whole community. The story ends in a dead-end, where the two protagonists are seeking for an exit from the vicious circle in which they are not themselves and the rest of the inhabitants of the building.

The novel presents the reader with many comic scenes, but these could be regarded as humorous due to the caustic and satirical criticism which the author employs.

The Desecrated Memory is a novel which depends on the major elements of the novel: the accepted rules of the game, showing, and telling. The novel is a narrative and a dramatic one, the novel is a picture of both the past and the future.



Mo'nis Arrazzaz

the father, Professor Abdel Rahim, who is crippled following a thrombosis attack and the amputation of his leg as a result of a bullet wound, is taken advantage of by his Sri Lankan servant Aria. She makes his home a place for her love relations with a young man who visits her nightly, violating all values and standards of behavior.

The novel then begins to shut the forwards and backwards, presenting the progression of events, while at the same time unraveling the past family life. The present, the past and the future are thus synchronized in a gloomy picture: The wife is dead, the daughter has emigrated to the United States, and the father is left alone with his mentally retarded son, Munqeth.

Aria, realizing the dependence of son and father upon her, does not hesitate to make the best of the situation. Professor Abdel Rahim's past history is also disclosed as analogous to his current position: An advocate of a nationalistic ideology, an activist who opposed government policies and an active organizer of demonstrations who left his country for political asylum for Egypt.

After a longish stay there, a time during which he came to know all the negative aspects of such a life, he returned to his country only to find that the whole generation of adulators and supporters had disappeared, and that it had been replaced by a new generation that knows neither his character nor his history. Moreover, he hopes that he had pinned on his son had also vanished. Ironically, Munqeth, (a name meaning 'savior'), grows up an additional burden for his father and society as a whole. Thus the futility of all his endeavors and aspirations is ushered in; a ghastly image which combines the past, the present, and the prospective future.

Professor Abdel Rahim strives hard to reintroduce himself to the current political life, looking for a candidate to support in the parliamentary election campaign, but his attempt is also aborted as he receives no signs of encouragement, not even by the young candidate who pays one single visit to him while on his way for a symposium.

Totting under the pressures of old age, illness, disappointment, neglect and frustration, the old man faces the new challenge of an unwelcome visitor who fre-

Focus on Jordanian literature (3) Mo'nis Arrazzaz: An unorthodox tradition

quents his house nearly every night to desecrate his house, his bed and his photographs. He stands before this challenge helplessly; a continuous reminder of his weakness, his defenselessness, and his insignificance. Here is one of the scenes from the novel, in which the servant and her lover violate the house, disregarding the simplest rules of decency and respect:

At first, they used to take all the necessary precautions: She used to take him inside her bedroom, bolt the door firmly with the latch and make the least possible noise they could; but later, they started to encroach upon the whole house, after discovering one night that the father saw them, and opened his lips to say, not to shout, but to declare without sound, without light, and without any movement, his crippled bewilderment. They overcame the first moment's fright, and began to exceed the limits.



The elegant young man enters the old man's dark bedroom, a small electric torch in his hand, and a cigar in his mouth. He puffs its smoke in the face of the old man who had once been a bitter enemy of oppression, but his unbreakable valour, or the reminiscence of it was deeply rooted there, despite the impact of illness.

The young man takes the old man's second album of photographs out of the cupboard, the store of memories, and the museum of life and old days. He looks at the pictures of the invalid, standing on a balcony that overlooks the Hussein Mosque in the center of the city, raising a hand which has been paralyzed after a fit, saluting tens of young, bright faces in the hot sun of noon. The young man explodes with laughter.

Then, he takes out the invalid's wedding picture, chews the gum and giggles and says nervously: "The deceased lady was charm-

ing. Did you use to enjoy her, I mean, physically? Why then did you meddle with politics?" Professor Abdel Rahim watches him dumbly put the wedding picture into his inside pocket, and says in a stifled voice: "No!", but his words are submerged in Munqeth's snoring.

Aria joins her lover, and fetches the late lady's perfume. Suddenly, she looks at Abdel Rahim, she sees him gaping at her with wide, defiant, silent shining eyes. Munqeth's snoring rises high above their heads and the serene calmness; and in the father's eyes, she discerns two petrified drops of tears, glistening.

Perceiving how safe she is, she laughs, uses the perfume, and puts around her wrist one of the late lady's bracelets and embraces her lover.

In an inexplicable sadism, they commit everything before the old man's eyes; they lie down on the late lady's bed, next to the father's bed, send out demonic laughter and engage themselves in an erotic scene, while the old man becomes more and more introverted.

He tries to avoid looking at them, but he is dominated by some mysterious, inscrutable power that urges him to watch, as though to remind himself of his utter impotence, as though he is intent on mobilizing his indignation against them and against his infirmity; as though he desires not to let this ugly, indecent deed which is committed so close to him pass unobserved. This deed which virtually does not affect his body, moves him profoundly. And so, with an intermittent, whispering voice, which quickly gains height and becomes more vigorous, he begins to sing: "If I fall, oh comrade, in the struggle take my place." The young man jumps in fright, then recollects and says in amazement: "You are mad!"

"I am singing," retorts the old man, "but my memory has started to fail me." Then he fixes his eyes on the young man in scrutiny, and says:

"From the balcony, I used to see thousands of young men's faces, they were all of your age; perhaps, your father was one of them, and they used to cheer."

The young man puffs his gum, it takes the form of a balloon; then he bursts it. After a hysterical spell of laughter, he remarks: "My father! My father used to hate your class, and used to call you a handful of rogues and rascals."

"Thanks be to Allah," the old man says in a relieved tone. "So your father was not among those

for whom I devoted my life. Please, return the photos to the album, suffice it that you stole the first one. Tell me, won't you return it? Of what use will the photos be?"

"Mister, I'm here; did you forget me?" says Aria interrupting; and her voice echoes in the silence of the dark house. The young man does not turn to her; instead, he pulls out his knife, and without rising, displays it before the professor.

"Do not disturb me. If you feel lonely, and if you'd like to have a chair, then go walking on your Olympic feet. Ha! Ha! To your lunatic son's bedroom, and tell him the story of your life."

Abdel Rahim smiles bitterly, and reiterates: "If I fall, oh comrade, in the struggle take my place - no, no, the words are inaccurate. Something's the matter with my memory, do you remember the poem?"

"I don't memorize poems," vociferated the young man. "Munqeth knows it by heart," said Professor Abdel Rahim, proudly and jubilantly.

The young man responds with a series of erotic moans, sweat running down his cheeks and chest, and Aria rejoins him with rhythmic sighs.

The old man in this novella is passive, despite all his attempts to be otherwise, and the tremendous challenge remains to be faced regularly. His tragedy, however, becomes more weighty as he loses his second foot, at the time he is preparing himself to participate in a campaign to support a young candidate in his parliamentary elections.

At this point of despair, inhibition and impotence, a dream presents the only outlet for the fulfillment of his wishes. In his dream, he sees his imbecile son save the father from a robber, and later Aria's lover, who comes to attend a banquet which Aria had held in his honor.

But the disillusionment comes quickly, when the telephone rings and wakes him up to naked reality: For, to his dismay, on the telephone is Aria's lover, requesting him to call her, while at the same time Munqeth enters his father's bedroom, looking inquisitive.

Despite the symbolic implications of the novel, its fascination and power remain strong at its literal reading; it can be read and enjoyed away from its political implications: It is a study in Man's psychology, Man when disabled by disease, frustrated by life, and forgotten by his friends. This could be, any man, anywhere, or on a larger scale, any nation under certain circumstances.

Fahd A. Salameh is a producer at Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English Literature from the University of Jordan.

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Mahmoud Riad

Death of a statesman

Mahmoud Riad, politician and diplomat, born 8 January 1917, Foreign Minister Egypt 1964-72, Secretary-General League of Arab States 1972-79, died Cairo 25 January 1992.

By Adel Darwish

THE DEATH of Mahmoud Riad, the former Egyptian foreign minister and Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (LAS), has deprived Arab negotiators in the Middle East peace process of an important adviser.

Although he was Egyptian, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was in permanent contact with Riad for advice and consultation. So were many other Arab delegations, since Riad was one of the most experienced negotiators in Arab-Israeli disputes and had the most comprehensive knowledge of the regional issues — borders, economics, and water and mineral resources — which lie at the heart of the dispute over the West Bank, the Golan Heights and south Lebanon.

Riad's diplomatic career spanned more than four decades. It started when he led the military section of the Egyptian delegation at the 1949 armistice negotiations following the conflict over the partition of Palestine and the declaration of the Jewish state in 1948.

Riad participated in diplomatic dealings and negotiations in further regional and international events including the 1956 Suez campaign; the Nasser-Macmillan rapprochement of 1959; The Algerian war of independence; the Six Day War in 1967; the 1970 Black September clashes in Jordan; the Yom Kippur war in 1973; the Lebanese civil war in the mid-1970s; the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the subsequent Arab boycott of Egypt in 1979; the first Gulf war of 1980-88 and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

He bluntly opposed the invasion, and used his position among Arab nations to persuade them to back Arab summit conference in Cairo in August 1990 that paved the way for building the Arab-International coalition that liberated Kuwait.

Born in 1917 to an Egyptian middle-class family, Riad was one of the first generation of non-aristocrats to graduate from military academy, in 1939. He was promoted captain in 1948, and took his M Phil in international law and strategy in the same year.

Four years later he was put in charge of the Palestine Desk at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and in 1953 took over the ministry's Arab Affairs Directorate. In 1955 he was appointed ambassador to Damascus, where he canvassed Arab support for Egypt during the 1956 Suez conflict, and paved the way for the 1957 talks leading to an Egyptian-Syrian federation (the United Arab Republic) in February 1958.

Thirty years later, almost to the day, President Mubarak relied on Riad's experience to make a start on Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement after a decade of hostility.

Mahmoud Riad was one of the few officers, like the late Hassan Sabri al-Khouli, who left the military in order to bring Egypt respectability in the international diplomatic arena. By the time Riad became President Nasser's adviser on foreign affairs in 1960, Egypt was already in



the heart of the non-aligned movement, carrying its diplomacy into the heart of Africa and many Third World countries.

Riad was active in those circles, and when he was appointed Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations (UN) in 1961 he found strong support from the non-aligned block.

Riad became foreign minister in 1964 and founded the Egyptian Institute for Diplomacy, at once think-tank and training campus for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. In 1970 he was given the additional portfolio of Deputy Prime Minister. He handled some difficult tasks such as the Arab summits in Khartoum in 1969 and Rabat in 1970, when oil-rich Gulf states were reluctant to pay their share to Cairo to reimburse her for her confrontation with Israel.

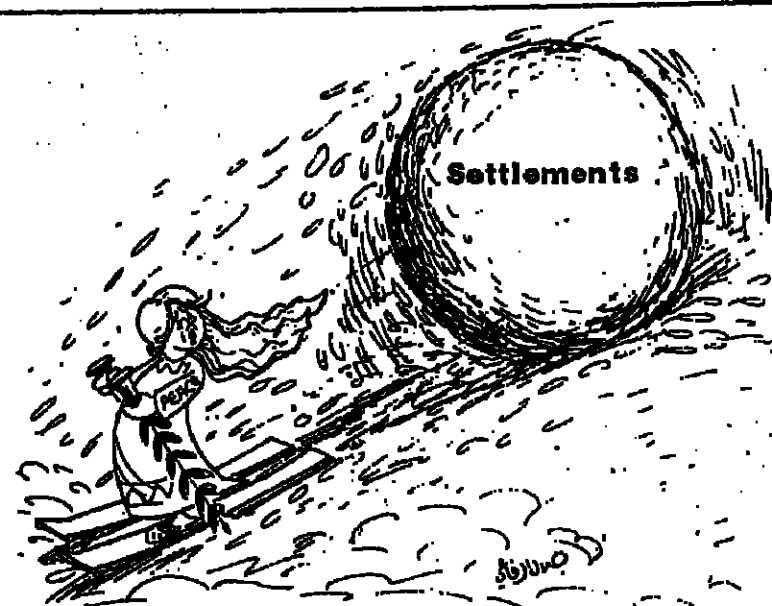
In the succeeding two years he persuaded all African states but three (South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi) to sever diplomatic relations with Israel for its refusal to implement UN Resolution 242 and withdraw from Egyptian Sinai. In 1972, Riad became the third secretary-general of the League of Arab states succeeding Abd al-Khalik Hassouna, who also died last week.

During his leadership of the LAS, Riad had to deal with unprecedented conflicts and splits among Arab countries. But the major crisis came in 1979 when the Arab summit in Baghdad decided to expel Egypt for making peace with Israel. Although he opposed Sadat bitterly.

Riad wrote to all Arab leaders stating that the Baghdad summit was null and void since he, the Secretary-General of the LAS, had not issued the invitation. He resigned when the Arabs decided to move the LAS headquarters from Cairo to Tunis.

Riad published several books about the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict and was in a unique position to give advice to almost all parties on the Arab side in the Middle East peace process recently initiated by the US.

Riad was directly involved with the late Lord Caradon, then Britain's Permanent Representative at the UN, in drafting UN Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967, urging Arab states to recognise Israel and guarantee its security within the pre-1967 borders. This resolution is the basis of today's Baker Plan for a permanent settlement in the Middle East.



Jalal Rifa'i/Ad-Dustour

Our Say....

Algeria in turmoil

IT IS with much pain and anxiety that we follow the sad events in Algeria, which have led so far to the escalation of tension as the country went into a state of emergency. Since the five-man presidential council headed by Mr Muhammad Boudiaf has chosen to confront the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the chances of driving the country into a vicious cycle of violence have increased. FIS with its millions of backers will not give up the fight easily in spite of the government crack down. It is clear that what remained of FIS' leadership will now go underground and wage a popular war of resistance against the military-backed council. No victor will emerge from this endless civil strife, but all Algerians stand to lose as militancy and violence substitute dialogue and compromise.

The Islamists may have lost a golden opportunity to take over the leadership of this important Arab-African country for the time being. But it is certain that they have not lost the overwhelming support of most Algerians. Quite the contrary. The usurpation of power by Mr Boudiaf and his associates in the military have denied the council and the government of Mr Said Ahmad Ghozali of all sympathy across Algeria's political divide. The Islamists, who achieved a landslide victory in round one of Algeria's first free elections early this year and were certain to do the same in the second round, now have a legitimate claim to power, unlike the ruling council. This important advantage will bring many of Algeria's smaller political parties to ally themselves with the FIS in resisting the present illegitimate government.

The power of FIS' leadership may have waned as a result of the current crack down, but it is important to remember that FIS' real strength lies in its grassroots support. This leaves the military and Mr Boudiaf's council with only two options, since they wasted their third one, which is to negotiate with FIS about resuming Algeria's process of democratization.

The first option is to send in the army to confront the people in the streets of Algiers, Batna, Tebessa, Oran, Tlemcen, Medea and others. It is ironic that Boudiaf, himself a hero of the war of liberation against French occupiers, may have to fight the same kind of popular resistance of which he was once a leader. This option will suck the country into months and maybe years of a bloody civil war similar to those of Angola, El Salvador and Chile.

The second option will be for Boudiaf to flee back into exile thus creating a power vacuum which will automatically be filled by the FIS. This option is also dangerous since it could mean a repeat of the one-party rule of the National Liberation Front (NLF) — which had beset Algeria for 30 years — this time by FIS in the absence of democratic traditions and a multi-party system of government.

As to Boudiaf's erroneous assumption that he could defeat the FIS and the Islamists by reviving the economy, creating jobs and solving the housing shortage, we can only remind Mr Boudiaf that the FIS will do its very best to derail economic development by keeping the country politically unstable.

Mr Boudiaf and his military associates could try to turn the clock back by reinstating President Chadli Benjdil for an interim period, enough for Mr Benjdil to negotiate a peaceful transition of power under guarantees to be provided by the FIS to uphold a multi-party constitutional democracy, that which earned them power in the first place.

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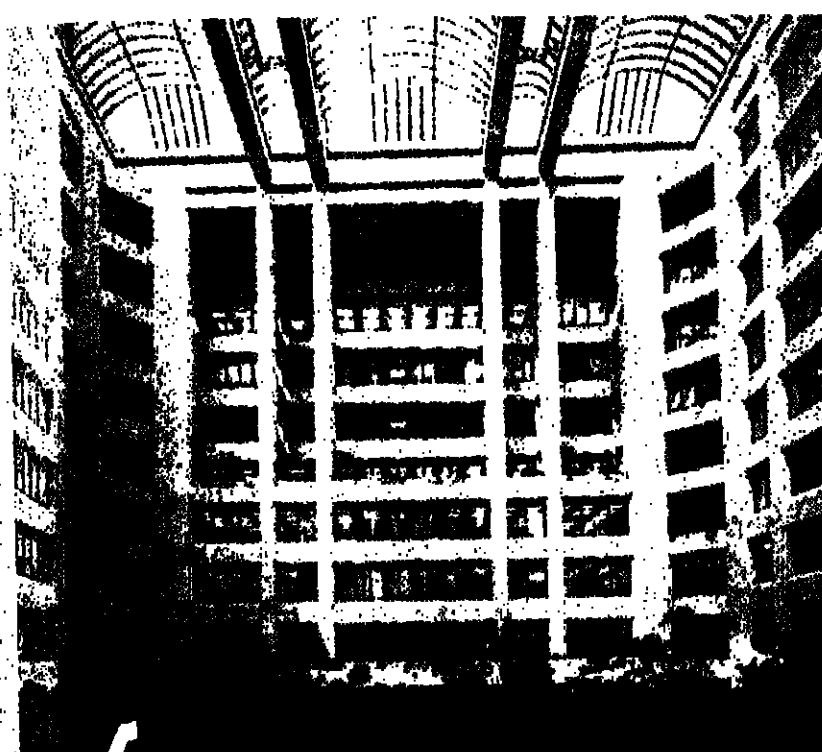
A special section

on global affairs prepared for
The Star

The World Paper

THE NEW SUPERPOWERS

IMF: Capital of the world



IMF headquarters.

A general once explained to Napoleon why he couldn't open fire on the enemy: "First, we have no guns..."

Today, the general might be looking for the purse strings. For it is economics not armaments that is brought to bear against foe and friend alike, and decides the fate of nations and national governments. Cash is king. He who has capital, or access to it, occupies the high ground.

It is in this context that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the world's two greatest multinational lending and finance institutions, have taken on a role almost larger than life.

Formed at the 1944 Bretton Woods conference, these two offshoots of the United Nations provide financial and other support to governments which accept their policy proposals for overcoming economic epidemics of inflation, burdensome debt, busted budgets and balance of payment difficulties. Thus their policy prescriptions

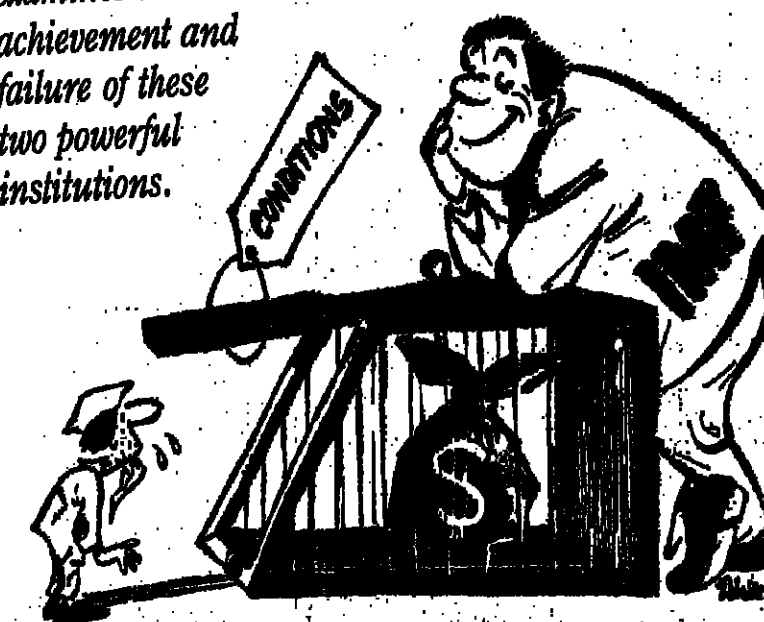
influence national politics and the fate of governments and nations.

The Bank, involved primarily in long-term loans, committed some US\$22 billion to nearly 80 countries in 1991 alone. The IMF, providing surveillance over the economies of 156 member countries and financing to countries facing external payment problems, last year disbursed about \$26 billion to over 50 countries.

With command economies being replaced by market economies, political and social realities are changing, and the two institutions are more influential than ever before. In a world characterized by a global capital shortage and an abundance of debt, by inflation and stagflation, they stand alone in their expertise.

But they are also accused of interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states; being culturally blind in pushing similar remedies in countries as dissimilar as Chile and Czechoslovakia; worshipping the market-oriented philosophy of the Chicago School; serving as debt collectors for commercial banks; and administering shock therapy at the expense of the poor.

Just as the IMF and the World Bank examine the bank balances of the nations of the world, this issue examines the balance of achievement and failure of these two powerful institutions.



CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Seeing the people behind the numbers

IMF and World Bank tackle poverty, call for fewer guns, more butter

By BRAD DURHAM
in Washington, D.C.

AS DEVELOPING countries emerge from the debt crisis of the 1980s, the IMF and the World Bank have changed policy to focus on world poverty—in part by slashing military spending.

Bank President Lewis Preston, a 40-year veteran of J.P. Morgan, announced the new policy in a surprising speech at the annual meeting of the IMF and the Bank in Bangkok last October. The Bank's lending, he said, "should be linked to a country's effort to reduce poverty."

The IMF followed through by announcing that it would use its financial and political resources to encourage countries seeking to borrow to convert military spending into investment in health and education.

"Our regional president told Pakistan in no uncertain terms recently that it ought to cut its military expenditures and redirect it into the civilian economy," says Bank spokesman John Mitchell. "In the 'New World Order,' we can't afford to ignore military policy anymore."

Mitchell explains that there are two reasons for the new concern about the welfare of the poor. It is in part a response to the criticism in the 1980s that the Bank and the IMF were more concerned about economic efficiency than social justice. And it is reassurance to the Third World that it won't be forgotten in the rush to assist Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The new policy is possible because whole continents now accept the wisdom of slashing budget deficits and freeing markets, once the controversial IMF vision of the world but now called the "emerging consensus" on economic policy. The wave of reform swept Latin America late in the 1980s, turning a dismal debt hole into the darling of the IMF and the Bank. Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela and Chile are re-establishing themselves as reliable customers for loans from private banks.

The booming, so-called Tigers of Asia (Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia and others) are cited with pride as countries that accepted the orthodoxy of fiscal reform and structural adjustment. In Africa, Morocco seems serious about privatization and is entering the second phase of economic restructuring, while Nigeria begins restructuring its debt this year.

Even India, one of the last bastions of old-style development planning, and for long a critic of the IMF and the Bank, has launched an impressive program of reform that has merited loans totaling

US\$2.7 billion, with more to follow. Some governments, in fact, are adopting reforms that go beyond those suggested, and the IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus, says that while his predecessors spent much of their time edging governments toward reform, he listens to governments talking about their desire for change.

But the Bank and the IMF are now rushing to assist Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS—the former Soviet Union) at a

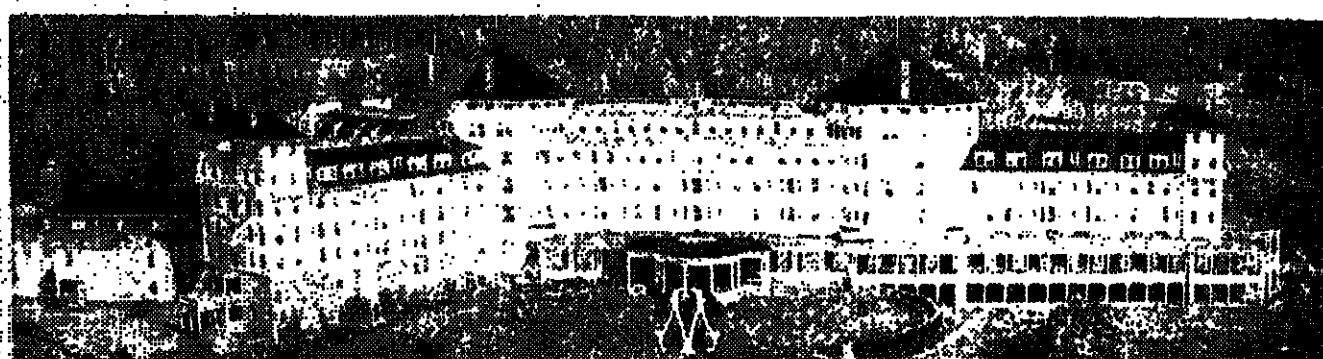
speed that belies the idea that they are sluggish international bureaucracies. In less than three years, the two have lent more than \$11 billion in Eastern Europe. Loans of \$6 billion have been approved for Poland, the region's boldest reformer, although it has not met all the proposed conditions. Within three months of rejoining the IMF in September, Czechoslovakia received \$1.8 billion in assistance.

The IMF has sent technical assistance teams to five Eastern European countries and the CIS to advise on problems rang-

ing from foreign currency operations to privatization of state-owned industries. The Bank will provide technical help in the normal way as its projects are implemented.

But neither agency expects fast and easy results in Eastern Europe. As one official said: "Much of the zeal is the fervor of new converts. Helping will be extremely difficult since they don't have the intellectual tradition to distinguish between good and bad advice. And, since this is uncharted territory, in some cases neither do we."

Eastern Europe's cold-turkey transition from communism to capitalism may become the most formidable challenge yet to the IMF and the Bank. They will remain powerful also in the CIS, Africa and elsewhere where national economies are in dire straits.



Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, site of 1944 meeting which created IMF and World Bank.

The two keys to the vault

From Bretton Woods to unity?

BOTH THE World Bank and the IMF were established in 1944 when the Western allies were heading toward victory in World War II and met at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, to plan the reconstruction of the world and the management of the postwar international economy.

The Bank was intended to finance reconstruction but was soon overshadowed by the US Marshall Plan. It turned instead to development in the Third World. Owned by governments of the 155 member countries, it mainly consists of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Agency (IDA).

The Bank has two sources of loan capital. By selling bonds on international money markets, it raises funds to make IBRD loans at cost-plus expenses, which is almost always lower than the commercial rate. Outstanding loans total US\$91 billion. IDA loans are funded by subscriptions paid by wealthy countries and go on easy terms only to poorer countries where the average income is less than \$580 a year. Borrowers have 50 years to repay the loan at less than 1 percent a year. IDA loans now total \$4.5 billion.

Most loans are made for infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, power facilities and tele-

communications. The Bank has 5,900 staffers (and legions of consultants and contract workers) who first approve projects and then check progress and offer expert advice. But when it realized in the 1970s that "a good project in a bad economy will likely be a bad project," as one official put it, the Bank introduced "structural adjustment loans" to help countries adjust economic policies. This produced a tidal wave of lending in the 1980s and gave the Bank considerable clout in economic policy-making in countries seeking loans.

The International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the Bank, provides financial assistance to private businesses by promoting joint ventures and advising on privatization. To increase private lending, it is to receive a capital increase of 10 percent a year through the end of the decade.

The IMF is an organization of member countries each of which contributes capital in proportion to its national income and receives rights to draw on the Fund. Its original purpose was to make mutually beneficial economic rules and to fix and support the values of national currencies. It worked well in getting the flow of goods and capital moving after the war. But by the 1970s, exchange rates could no longer be supported at fixed rates and private capital

markets began to expand. To survive, the IMF fell back on another role, making hard-currency loans to tide countries over temporary balance-of-payment problems.

In 1976, the IMF sold some of its gold reserve to create a trust fund from which to make loans, with conditions, to poor countries. The conditions are usually that the borrowing country restrain spending, deregulate industry and free markets. These requirements can generate headlines and public charges that the IMF is the scourge of the Third World. But their wisdom now is widely accepted.

Experts in international finance suggest that because both the Bank and the IMF are engaged in making loans geared to economic policy and in providing technical assistance they will eventually merge. But the IMF is controlled by the central banks and finance ministries of member countries, and the Bank by development aid ministries.

"A merger won't happen on this side of the century," says Azizul Mohammed, IMF alternate executive director. Nevertheless, the two institutions are working together in almost every developing country: invariably, the IMF looks after short-term stabilization and exchange rates and the Bank is concerned with long-term structural reform.

CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

The shock therapy that is too shocking

By SILVIU BRUCAN
in BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

FOR THE FIRST time in the IMF and the World Bank's history, a top executive said that they do not pay enough attention to the poor of the world. The surprising admission was made by none other than IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus at the annual meeting of the two institutions held last October in Bangkok.

Ostensibly, it is the poor countries the 80 percent of the world's population which produces only 26 percent of global GDP that the IMF and the World Bank should be helping. This constituency, comprising Latin America, Africa, and a large part of Asia, is actually the "fief" of the two institutions. The collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has revealed that their populations should also be classified as the underprivileged part of our world. In each region, the IMF and the Bank's actions have hindered growth as much as they have promoted it.

The problem of Latin America is simple. Given the high growth rate of population (over 2 percent a year), and the still higher growth rate of the labor force (about 3 percent a year), the GDP should increase by more than 3 percent annually, preferably 4 percent, to provide the cushion necessary to move the economy forward and improve living standards.

To that end, investment in new production units is required either from abroad or from capital accumulated at home. Unfortunately, capital inflow fell sharply in the 1980s and the formation of domestic capital was hindered by the transfer of money from Latin America to US banks to service debts. In other words, foreign investments went down while net transfer of money abroad went up.

The standard prescription of the IMF and a Latin American countries has been shock belt-tightening, anti-inflation crash programs, and sharp cuts in social security spending. All of these measures make life harder for working men and women, and the poor. More often than not, the IMF has pushed too hard for continued devaluations of national currencies in fragile economies with little supply response capacity.

Usually ill-advised have proven the IMF's suggestions to Eastern European governments to make the transition to a market economy in one sharp go. In Poland, the shock therapy so much hailed by the IMF and the Bank has led to unemployment and skyrocket-

ing food and consumer item prices which have left those on fixed incomes in a bind. The first casualty of that economic strategy was ex-premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki in Poland, and the second was ex-premier Petre Roman in Romania whose government was toppled by the rampaging miners.

The African debt crisis is the worst.

An Eastern European's complaint: the poor nation's purse is short of money but full of pain.

Africa's collective GNP has shrunk from US\$200 billion in 1980 to \$140 billion in 1990. As a consequence, malnutrition, hunger and infant mortality have reached alarming proportions while essential expenditures on education and health have been reduced sharply. African debt service has risen from 4 percent of GDP in 1982 to 8 percent in 1990. But these figures do not represent what the countries of the continent really owe.

If Africa could have met its scheduled obligations in 1990, debt service payments would have absorbed 15 percent of GDP and nearly 60 percent of the region's export earnings. Between 1986 and 1990, the IMF has extracted more than \$3 billion from the low-income countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

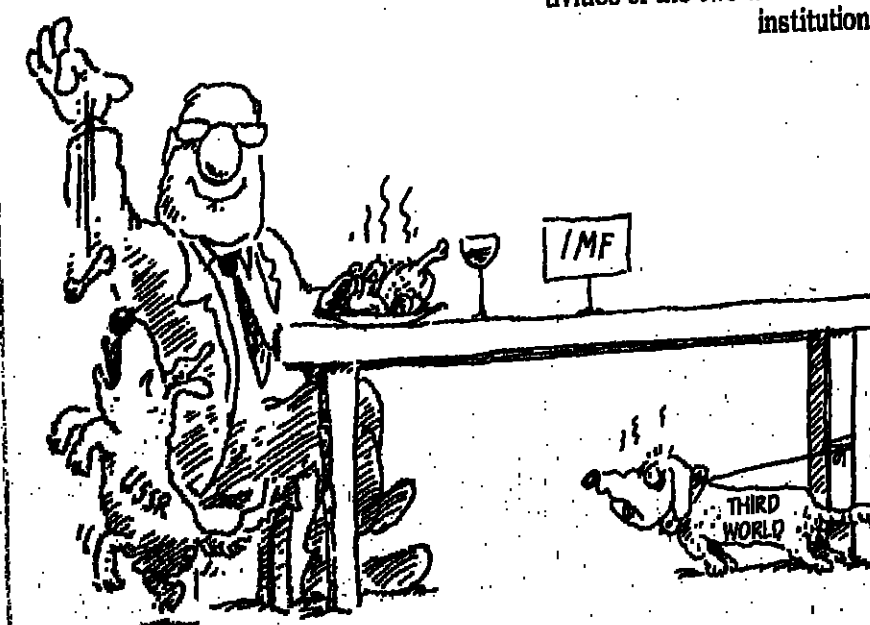
In Zambia, the IMF-backed economic reform program which called for an end to state subsidies, particularly food subsidies designed to help the poor, was deferred by former president Kaunda until after the elections in October. He was severely criticized by the IMF for his decision.

Turning to Asia, a World Bank report on India's agriculture called on the government to halt the subsidization of farmers in regions that have prospered from state investment. The report claims that such subsidies are channeling cheap food to the urban rich. But what about the urban poor? Do they prefer food to be expensive?

Cutting state subsidies of food staples is also one of the central recommendations the IMF has made to East European governments. Predictably, the result has been a rapid increase in food prices. It is interesting to note that state subsidies to support agriculture in Western countries amounts to nearly \$100 billion annually. As the Romans used to say, *Quod licet Jovi non licet bovi* (What is permitted to Jupiter is not permitted to the ox).

In the Philippines, a report last October published jointly by Oxfam and The Freedom from Debt Coalition criticized the IMF for requiring excessively harsh measures exclusively geared to the balance of payment and the foreign debt problem, but having a catastrophic effect on the welfare of ordinary people. In Sri Lanka, local newspapers accused the IMF of setting stringent conditions for a \$455 million loan that included a reduction in tariff protection for local manufacturers and the introduction of value-added taxes on consumer goods.

Apparently the bad habits acquired under the Reagan administration, from political arm-twisting to conditioning loans and credits to abortion regulations, are still alive and kicking. At last year's meeting in Bangkok, the emphasis was on democratization as a prerequisite for getting financial help. However, democratization on the national level is not good enough as long as the world at large is beset by glaring economic inequalities. Let us hope that the remark of the IMF chairman in Bangkok will be followed by a critical reappraisal of all activities of the two world financial institutions.



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Those who have the money

JEFFREY SACHS is a rarity in academia: he practices what he preaches. Sachs is a professor of international trade at Harvard University and serves as an economic adviser to several governments in Latin America and Eastern Europe. He is one of the architects of the economic reform introduced in Poland in 1990 and is currently leading a team of economic advisers for Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Wherever he has worked, Sachs has helped shape relations between the IMF and the World Bank and local governments. In an interview with WorldPaper Editor Daniel Passent, Sachs parts fact from fiction by responding to some of the criticisms frequently voiced about the IMF and the World Bank.

Q Based on your experience advising governments in Bolivia to Poland, how would you describe the roles of the IMF and the World Bank in helping these countries overcome economic catastrophe?

A On the whole, these institutions play a positive role, although it could be improved. The IMF tells the truth, which is that when a country tries to live beyond its means it is going to end up with high instability. To end instability, it generally has to take politically difficult austerity measures. That basic message is simple, straightforward and correct. The IMF helps not only by delivering a strong message but also by providing financial

support to countries that pursue reasonable reforms.

The main reason the IMF and World Bank aren't as effective as they could be is that there is another side to the coin which could be pursued more aggressively. The constraints which come from debt burdens could be relieved through greater international financial assistance.

Poland, for example, had hyperinflation, and by the end of 1989 the society and the economy were spinning out of control. Without dramatic measures to reduce the budget deficit, there would have been a disaster, complete devastation of the economy. The IMF said correctly that support for Poland would depend on it taking strong fiscal measures to end an enormous budget deficit. But Poland needed more than that; it also needed relief from its debt and it needed help from outside. The IMF could have done more to help Poland mobilize international resources to make this adjustment in its debt.

Q Is the role of the IMF growing?

A The role of the IMF has been very significant for a number of years, principally because there have been a large number of countries in severe financial difficulty. Perhaps 50 or 60 countries experienced a foreign debt crisis in the 1980s and had to turn to the IMF for financial assistance. The IMF does not force itself on any country; countries come to the IMF because they're

in desperate need of help.

Q Now, when the Cold War is over and economic factors gain in importance, are the IMF and the Bank acquiring the role of a supergovernment that interferes in the internal matters of national

A In Poland, some politicians have recently said: "Why should we deal with the IMF on the terms we have; we should deal with the IMF on equal terms." It's nice rhetoric, but illusory. Poland is not giving the IMF a loan. Poland is in trouble, it needs help. So there's something one could call "unequal" about that. The IMF did not throw itself at Poland.

You can argue whether or not the IMF is doing a good job. From what I can see, the IMF's basic message to Poland has been correct on economic grounds—that the country would harm itself by trying to sustain the growing budget deficit which would lead back to hyperinflation.

On the other hand, I would like to see the IMF give Poland more support in the international community to reduce its debt to private banks and get more financial support. The IMF's basic line is correct but it surely could have made life in Poland easier. There are 50 countries where this is an issue right now.

What I really detest is the white-hot, populist rhetoric that pounds the table and says, "We wouldn't deal with the IMF." That's just stupid. These are people who don't want to observe the basic laws of economics. The IMF message is simple and correct: it will lend to a country if the country is realistic in its policies. That makes many people mad because they don't want realistic policies. But if countries are realistic they have a stronger case to say to the IMF, "Yes, we recognize that what you're saying is legitimate, we can't have crazy populist policies, but having done all you've suggested, (now) help us get more international support."

Q Is the IMF applying the same therapy to all countries which, by their nature, are very different—their economies differ, the people differ, the political systems differ? Or are the laws of economics the same everywhere, so the therapies can't differ much?

A The IMF applies roughly the same set of prescriptions. As you've said, basic economic laws are similar across the world. If a government wants large budget deficits and prints a lot of money it is going to have high inflation, or a balance of payments crisis, or a combination of the two. So the IMF regularly insists on cutting the deficit. I regard that as absolutely correct. But where the IMF tries to apply the same medicine from one country to another in a more or less bureaucratic manner, a government has a chance to go to IMF and explain: "In our country, the following (policy) would be a better way to achieve a balanced budget..." There's room for negotiation. The basic principles that the IMF advocates are correct, but the governments know the local conditions better.

Q It can't be denied that the IMF is dominated by rich nations of the Northern Hemisphere. Some accuse it of practicing a velvet form of neocolonialism.



Sachs: The laws of economics are universal.

The IMF is dominated by the creditor nations. It's a leading institution. Those who have the money have the shots. I wouldn't regard that as neocolonialism. A country doesn't have to go to the IMF. It goes because the IMF has something to offer—international financial support during a period of transition. The IMF approach is right: balanced budgets are the only way to govern, and it is not right to lend to governments that can't keep their own house in order. There are not colonial factors but reasonable pre-

conditions. I have had major fights with the IMF over the extent of international assistance that is provided to a country. A country is taking the right measures, it deserves financial support. During the 1970s and 1980s, a lot of unsavory regimes borrowed too heavily from the IMF. Now, new democracies have come to power in these countries and the new democratic governments are trying to undertake fundamental reforms. The IMF is the only realistic way forward is to cut the bad debt in threatening to cripple the economies of several countries.

In these cases, the only realistic way forward is to cut the bad debt and negotiate the contract to more realistic terms so that the creditors absorb some of the loss. In

the case of Poland, I was a very strong advocate of debt reduction, as I have been in Bolivia and many other countries. The IMF has not been as responsive as it might have been. After many years of persuasion it has come around at least in part to the position that reforming countries deserve debt relief. But (relief) is not always as automatic and generous as it ought to be.

In some East European countries, Poland for example, you're starting to see the kind of rhetoric about the neocolonialism of the IMF that was very popular in Latin America in the 1980s. The irony is that after 10 years that rhetoric has disappeared from Latin America because the countries are starting to function well. Mexico, Chile and Venezuela are growing. Even Argentina is stabilizing and beginning to grow, and all that anti-IMF rhetoric is disappearing.

But in Eastern Europe where there is not that much experience with the IMF and reform is at an earlier stage, and where the populists are starting to run free, you hear this stale, stupid and ill-informed rhetoric. It can be very costly to those countries for many years. My experience is that if a country starts to negotiate with the IMF in a serious and professional way, it can achieve its main goals—debt reduction, international financial support, and a realistic program. If it comes to the IMF like a baby,

the shots

pounding the table, saying that everything in the world is unfair, that all the problems are due to foreigners and neocolonialism, it ends up with bad terms of agreement.

Q Does the IMF, by applying shock therapy and painful measures, contribute to social tension and discontent? Does it destabilize countries and, indirectly, favor the advocates of strong-hand regimes in countries with little democratic tradition?

A There is something false and something true about that statement. When a country comes to the IMF, it is already destabilized, already in serious trouble. For example, to blame the IMF for the current social problems in Poland would be historically ignorant. Poland was so deeply destabilized that it had a revolution and abolished communism. It was a deeply unhappy, destabilized, hurting society. And it continues to be because the crisis is deep. That's not the fault of the international community and the IMF; that's a tragedy (developed) over 40 years. But now you find politicians in Poland who are blaming the IMF—people who don't have even two years of memory.

On the other hand, I have a certain sympathy with the idea expressed in your question in the sense that a country really reforming itself, really undertaking painful measures, has to be cognizant of the fact that there are social limits. If the reforms are pushed beyond those limits everybody loses—the country, the creditor community and the rest of the world—because the country becomes destabilized. There's a point where enough is enough.

The IMF should push hard for realism. It should absolutely reject populism. It should insist that governments be serious preparing budgets. But after it has done that, it should remember that societies can have complex and often self-defeating reactions to crisis. They can be pushed too far, over the edge. Even when a good government wants to undertake reforms, it may find itself powerless in the face of sharp social reactions. The IMF should recognize when its recommended measures are simply too painful to be absorbed, or when they are so sharp that they risk destabilizing a democratic government. At that point, the IMF should turn to the rest of the world, to the rich countries, and say, "This country is doing all it can, and now it is your turn."

Q Should the IMF and the Bank assist countries without tying the assistance to specific projects, or should they become involved, for instance, in helping countries to deal with environmental problems?

A That's a tough question. I don't think that the IMF should get involved (because) it is far from its expertise. The World Bank is a very different institution. It's a bank lending money for structural change, and it can play a constructive role in the environment. Many countries need international support to improve their environment. Rather than having the IMF press these solutions on countries, the World Bank can work on loans that support efforts to improve their environment. In some areas the natural environment has deteriorated to a level so dangerous to the people that I would consider it misguided if the World Bank didn't get involved and offer loans for improvements. ♦

And those who don't have the money...

Swamped in debt, Latin America takes its economic medicine

THE IMF IS not going to win any popularity contests in Latin America. Unfortunately, there is no way a continent can reduce its debt by over US\$400 billion without blood, sweat and tears.

The IMF has prescribed bitter pills for successful economic policy in its war against debt in Latin America. These include slashing government budgets, deregulation, privatization, reducing inflation, shrinking the public sector and replacing constant changes in economic direction with a certain degree of stability.

In Argentina, to combat the country's \$80 billion debt and budget deficit, early retirement was implemented and overtime was eliminated for public sector employees. With privatization of the national telephone company, the national airline and public transportation, the government netted \$7 billion which went to reducing foreign debt by 18 percent. About 60,000 public sector employees were transferred to the private sector, twice that number lost their jobs.

In Bolivia, a new law granted foreign investors the same rights as national investors and also gave them the right to repatriate

profits. Tariffs were reduced by 10 percent.

In Colombia, where foreign debt has reached \$16.8 billion, the application of IMF-recommended policies such as opening the country's economy to outside investment had serious socioeconomic consequences. Reduced public spending, increased taxes and fiscal restraint resulted in a slowdown in industrial growth. Budgetary cuts in public administration and indiscriminate tax increases reduced social well-being and adversely affected the job market.

Such measures as opening economies, even though there is no doubt that the region must be in step with world trade liberalization, can be perceived as interference of the rich North in the affairs of the indebted Third World. It is here where we might consider a new form of neocolonialism exercised by the IMF through the application of its recommendations as a condition for its stand-by loans.

But unemployment and poverty are inescapable symptoms of the cure the IMF prescribes to its Latin American members on their way to economic recovery.

By Brian Doherty, Havana, managing editor of the Dominican newspaper, La Jiribilla

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European Bank mixes hope and ecus

But is the new bank driven by politics or the search for profits?

BY MAREK OSTROWSKI
in London, UK

AT LANCASTER HOUSE, an elegant former palace on London's Green Park, Great Britain painfully negotiated the end of her world empire. But when the European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development was born there one year ago amid tremendous pomp and circumstance, the palace was transformed from a place of decay to one of life.

Addressing the representatives of the seven post-communist countries of Eastern Europe for whom the bank was exclusively created, French President François Mitterrand said, "No doubt,

hard times lie ahead for you—and you have had enough of a system that guaranteed hard times. But you don't want to tighten your belts forever: you want a message of hope."

And the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, known as the European Bank, is meant to be a sign of hope. The bank has three priori-

ties: assist the developing economies of Eastern Europe, establish economies in the region, and provide a favorable environment of Eastern Europe has been ravaged by careless management.

The bank's first president, Jacques Attali, has made bold statements on its mission: "We want to be the size of the continent (East and West) guided by the principles of the free market and democracy. This lofty language does little to allay the fears of more down-to-earth bankers in the European Bank who wonder exactly how this is going to be achieved while keeping the bank solvent."

It is still unclear whether political economics will prevail in the creation of the European Bank. "It is true we are going through an identity crisis," said one senior bank official.

In a recent interview, Attali said several times that the bank will be a charitable institution, but a bank oriented bank operating on economic sound principles. Nonetheless, he acknowledged that the European Bank "will go (to Eastern Europe) with more courage than the private sector. We are not going to live off our money, but we are going to live off the money of the private sector to wait for the profits."

Initially, the US was not very enthusiastic about the prospect of being a member of the European Bank. But in return for its 10 percent stake, the US is making it the largest shareholder among 41 governments and agencies—making it the Number Two person in the new bank. Attali diligently sought an American with the appropriate prestige in the financing world who could strengthen the bank's position in London's financial community and dispel rumors that the Americans were very supportive of the institution.

Ronald Freeman, a lawyer and banker who worked for Salomon Brothers almost 20 years, met these requirements. Although Freeman has been based in New York, his knowledge of the realities of post-communist countries is surprisingly good. Freeman is considered an expert on the East Europeans are just as entrepreneurial as Westerners.

"I am looking for the Henry Rothschild of Eastern Europe, the future entrepreneur. When I find them, I will encourage them, because such people need support and encouragement," Freeman said.

One of the important tasks of the newly created bank is to invest in the stock exchanges. The very presence of the bank in various undertakings, according to Freeman, should give investors "a sufficient sense of security in a region that is still going through political turmoil."

With its initial capital of 10 billion ecus (European Currency Unit—US\$13 billion), the bank meets the needs of a region which needs hundreds of billions of dollars to stand on its feet. Surprisingly, the bank's main problem is not a shortage of capital, but a shortage of feasible projects in which to

invest. There are thousands of proposals, said one director, "but most cannot be treated seriously. The proposals say 'Please send us money, I'll let you know what we'll do with it.'"

The proposals don't meet the realities of market realities. For instance, one proposal called for building a bridge under the sea to link the cities of Vladivostok, Siberia, and Alaska for the purpose of "contributing to international friendship." The number of such proposals the bank is considering is actually only a few dozen, and only one has been approved of only 12.

The bank's first major loan (for \$50 million) is to a bank in Poland to be used for lending money to several central enterprises (mainly to export of equipment and to energy conservation). About 90 percent of the projects reviewed come from the private sector. Freeman, who knows how to meet bankers' requirements, "Enterprises in the private sector only have a slight idea of how to go about getting money from foreign banks," he says.

One director of the European Bank may have a different view. It is closely identified with Jacques Attali, not a darling of the media, especially in London. He is the banker who speaks six languages and has written many books, among them *Essay on the History of Time*, *Noise: An Essay on the Economy of Music*, *Economic and Political Life*, and *The World of the Future*. His latest book, *1492—A Year in the World*, was published last year.

Western banking establishment as well as that as Mitterrand's spokesman. Attali advocated the nationalization of 35 of France's largest banks. Mitterrand was quoted as saying, "The bank is the London bureau of the Paris Foreign Agency."

Attali's influence was no laughing matter for bankers. Today, the same Attali stresses privatization: times change and people change.

To be fair, the bank has not existed long enough to objectively review its performance. But this fact has not silenced the bank's critics.

"For the time being, everybody is angry: I don't act quickly enough, I didn't come up with a sufficient number of transactions, our interest rate is too high (3 percent)," says Freeman. "Some confuse me with Mother Teresa. We don't give money away, we try to establish market reality which did not exist before."

The bank may face the same criticism that has been leveled at the IMF and the World Bank. But these criticisms

are usually the familiar harangues wrapped up in populist slogans. The danger in Eastern Europe is that populist rhetoric could bolster incompetent or fearful politicians who are incapable of taking necessary and painful measures to improve their economies. But the one criticism of the IMF that seems to stick is that its programs are not always suitable to the circumstances.

"They take a certain program, treat it as a constant, and apply it to various countries, or to countries of different histories, systems, etc.," says a European Bank director, J. Winicki. "The application of a Third World stabilization program to the post-socialist countries with different ownership structures and different tax systems causes the results we now see in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The crisis moves from the state enterprise sector to the budget



Laughing all the way to the bank: Attali (left) and Mitterrand.

sector, and sets the stage for a serious political crisis."

Attali understands the extent of the problem in Eastern Europe: "One should keep in mind that several problems appear at the same time—it is not only economic reform that has to be considered. For instance, the communist system used to put social equality ahead of economic efficiency. A new economic system governed only by market decisions would be an opposite extreme. By the mechanism of consensus, most of the countries try to find a balance between the collective consciousness of the society and the need for individual incentive, productivity and growth."

To enlarge its capital base, last September the bank launched its debut bond issue. More than \$600 million in bonds sold out in London within a few hours. The success of the bond issue helped the bank strengthen its position on the capital market. But according to widespread opinion in London's financial community, the real test of the bank's ability will come in financing investment projects which involve large-scale action and high risk. The predominant view resounding in the West is that the post-communist countries need unrestricted trade more than money.

"Our important role is to influence the West. If we are able to open the markets in the West for East European imports, our influence will mean much more than all the lending we can offer," says Attali.

The role of the European Bank as the catalyst of a historical process is a favorite subject of bank executives. But the Soviet Union has dissolved before our eyes, and the prospects for economic reform in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are still not clear. As Attali said in a speech in Oporto, Portugal, "God made the sea deep and perilous, yet it is in this in which the sky is reflected." ♦

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The United Nations Fights Drug Abuse Worldwide



A Global Response
To A Global Problem



By Dr. Israel Shahak

MANY years, Israeli politics have revolved around the US financial support of Israel which, in the opinion of both the Israeli government and serious Israeli political commentators, depends largely on the influence of the Jewish lobby upon American politics. The unforeseen crisis over the issue of \$10 billion in US guarantees for Israeli borrowing, therefore, has aroused Israeli passions, and has focused media attention on the actual purchase of the Jewish lobby has served.

It is not limited to the direct flow of money to Israel. It affects Israel's financial situation in its entirety. Chief economic correspondent Nehemya Shalev of Ha'aretz shows it by discussing the relations between Israel and "the international bankers," as he calls them.

In their dealings with Israel, international bankers normally do not ask any questions about macro-data, and do not usually any diagrams or scenarios," he wrote last year. "The questions they do ask are of a different sort: Will the US continue to support Israel? Or, more specifically, will it continue to disburse to Israel, year after year, economic and military grants?... And is the US willing to guarantee Israeli loans?"

Such treatment of Israel is unique, but it has continued for many years. Strosser writes: "An example from the rather recent past can show that the international bankers ask only such questions about Israel. But they undertaken a dispassionate analysis of the Israeli economy at the beginning of the 1980s, they would not only have refused to lend us a single dollar any more, but they also would have demanded the immediate repayment of past Israeli loans. Israel then had a hyper-inflation approaching 500 percent per year and zero GNP growth... Not a single rational thinking banker would have lent a single dollar under such circumstances. In precisely those years, Israel succeeded in borrowing commercially enormous sums of money. That success was possible solely due to US political support."

Strosser's reference to the "beginning of the 1980s" refers to the time of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. The enormous cost of this invasion was not covered by any increase in Israeli taxes, nor even by the US, which increased only slightly at that time. The cost was met mostly by commercial loans, which the "international bankers" extended because Israel was supported by the US. The invasion of Lebanon, with all of its enormous cost in human suffering, would not have occurred had Israel been unable to obtain the loans used to finance it. This fact has enormous significance today and for the future.

Israel's reliance on the power of the Jewish lobby in the United States is not limited to the domain of finances. As noted by one of Israel's leading political commentators, Yoel Markus, in an article published in "They Destroyed Our Myth," in October, the myth had its roots in Israel both in its American and its international context.

The most significant and the most worrisome indication of the crisis was the decision, with which President Bush challenged the myth of Jewish power. This myth was Israel's most treasure in America, and Bush brusquely attempted to rob us of this asset... The Jewish power, as if taken live from the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, affected the power of the Jewish lobby of our supporters in the Congress. It has helped us greatly in recent years and so many foreign ministers and states stood at our gates with outstretched hands. They really believed we held the keys to the heart, the purse of the United States."

The situation replete with irony. It is by no means alone among Israeli commentators in excusing the advo-

America 'No longer under our rule:'

Israelis discuss collapse of US lobby

SRULIK by DOSH



who amounted to about two-tenths of one per cent of that country's population, certainly suffered no greater hardship than the remaining 99.8 per cent. But most US politicians were much more keenly concerned about the fate of the 0.2 per cent of Ethiopians who were Jewish than all of the other Ethiopians.

The myth was extremely useful to Israel's representatives in Washington, Markus observes. "The myth of Jewish power frightened many American politicians, from presidents to congressmen. They all believed, not without some reason, that, unless backed by Jewish power, they stood no chance to get elected. This is why the myth was so serviceable to the state of Israel for so long."

The Myth At Work

cacy of myths that reinforce the underlying concept of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" if they help Israel. This is a typical Israeli attitude. Nahum Barnea, a respected left-of-center commentator, in an article entitled "The War Over the Protocols," wrote last September in Yediot Ahronot: "The contest between Shamir and Bush focuses on something more important than guarantees or settlements. The real issue is Jewish political power in the US. Jewish influence on American foreign policy grew enormously in the 1970s and 1980s... But this influence has also generated myths. These myths reverberate throughout the entire world, from China and Africa to Eastern Europe and the USSR. The entire world, which already recognizes the US as the sole remaining superpower, perceives Israel as a turnkey to the chambers of power in Washington... This myth brings us back to the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion,' a book which claimed that the Jews ruled the world. The situation is replete with irony. For decades Jews sought to refute the myth of the 'Protocols,' treating it as a morbid manifestation of anti-Semitism. Now Jews turn the very same myth to their advantage. Some even believe in it."

"The contest between Shamir and Bush focuses on something more important than guarantees or settlements. The real issue is Jewish political power in the US. Jewish influence on American foreign policy grew enormously in the 1970s and 1980s... But this influence has also generated myths. These myths reverberate throughout the entire world..."

Barnea sees that myth as a factor working to the advantage of the Jewish lobby's power in American politics. As for proof, he points to US government attitudes toward the Soviet Jews, who, he says, "are now better off than any other ethnic group in that country, including the Russians... Americans discriminate in favor of the Soviet Jews as compared to other populations of the USSR, Barnea writes, even though "if famine spreads in the USSR this coming winter, the Jews will be the last to be affected."

Similar examples can be provided from other countries. Under the murderous Mengistu regime in Ethiopia the Jews,

An article by Yoav Karni in last March's Ha'aretz illustrates the myth at work at the annual convention in Washington, DC of Israel's principal US lobby, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. "Once a year, usually in early spring, members of Congress stand up to be counted in the shadow of the flag of the state of Israel... (In March 1991) 48 senators and about 100 members of the House of Representatives responded to the call. It is difficult to imagine any other political event in Washington which would entice a comparable number of Congress members to attend."

Explaining that "senators who seek to raise funds for their coming re-election campaigns" are the most assiduous in courting AIPAC, Karni quotes AIPAC Executive Director Tom Dine as having divulged that "the collective power of Israel's friends in the US stems not from the Jewish vote, but from Jewish money. If that money flows, in the right amount and at the right time, it can determine the outcome of not a few races for the Senate," Karni writes.

The Israeli journalist recounts the story of "Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee. Percy had angered the friends of Israel by meeting Arafat and by talking about 'legitimate rights of the Palestinians.' Consequently, all the pro-Israeli money was lavished on his opponent, Paul Simon. According to a near-unanimous assessment, his sensational victory over Percy was due to this factor."

Empowered by such stories, the Jewish lobby has determined many aspects of US policy in line with the desires of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The situation changed in September as a result of the direct appeal by President Bush to the public. Bush sought to neutralize, at least

to some extent, the Jewish lobby's power to influence targeted campaign financing. Acknowledging that "nothing like that has ever happened before," Markus nevertheless opines that "Jewish power in the US has not yet been demolished, although the myth has suffered greatly."

To recoup its losses Markus believes "Jewish power now needs a case which can be presented as very just in order to prove that it is a power indeed." He points out, however, that "as long as the settlements proliferate, the myth of Jewish power cannot be restored. Together with other Israeli commentators, however Markus perceives Shamir as "failing to comprehend the full extent and depth of the crisis," and failing to realize that "America is no longer under our rule."

Explanations for the collapse of the myth which was essential to Israel preoccupy Israeli commentators. Markus and some others attribute the collapse to the fact that Shamir overused it.

"A myth retains its power only as long as it continues to be believed in. This is why the previous Israeli governments were always careful to invoke it only sporadically," Markus writes. "They were very careful to never absolutely never, put the myth of (Jewish) power to the test of reality. In this, they followed the proven rule: don't shoot if you can achieve the same effect by threatening to shoot. That was true until Shamir's government, through its mindlessness, came to the assistance of Bush."

"Political Necrophilia"

In an article provocatively entitled "Jewish perversion is still perversion," in Yediot Ahronot of September 19 last year, Yaron London cuts closest to the unpleasant truth. He castigates Shamir for encouraging "the US Jews to oppose vehemently their own government on the ground that this was what the memory of the behavior of American Jews during the Holocaust commanded." London decries constant invocations of the Holocaust, on which the propaganda of the Jewish lobby has always relied, as an "act of political necrophilia." He argues:

"First, hardly anyone believes that Russian Jews are now under threat of extermination. If this were so, what should we say about the relentless efforts of all Israeli governments, whether led by Labor or Likud, to shut the gates of the US to the Jewish refugees from the USSR?" With regard to the Soviet Jews, London advises American Jews to stop using their power to divert to Israel Soviet Jews who would prefer to go to the US, and instead to do the reverse of what the Jewish lobby wants them to do.

"If American Jews feel called upon to do something for the Jews of the USSR, they would be best advised to avoid exerting any pressure on the White House. They should instead press Israel into accepting all of Bush's conditions as soon as possible... The invocation of Auschwitz for the sake of legitimizing Israeli territorial conquest is a perverted stratagem."

Such censure is seldom heard in the mainstream US media. But in Yediot Ahronot London goes even further. He censures all Israeli officials who abused Bush. Among them are not only the rather junior minister Rehavam Ze'evi, who twice accused Bush of anti-Semitism, but also the minister of finance, Yitzhak Moda'i, who on Israeli TV said that "while demanding from us portions of the land of Israel's living flesh in return for his money, Bush behaved like Shylock."

London comments that "in the metaphor of Moda'i, the conquered territories are presented as our very own flesh and blood. The implied equation of land with blood is nothing else but fascist music. This is perversion. Let us not delude ourselves that perversion, when Jewish, ceases to be a perversion."

Dr. Israel Shahak, a Holocaust survivor and retired professor of chemistry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, is chairman of the Israeli League of Human and Civil Rights.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Gros plan

Le 'monsieur météo' jordannien sur la brèche

Rafiq Jamil Shaker vient de vivre une nouvelle semaine folle. Le roi en personne, l'a appelé pour s'enquérir des dernières nouvelles du ciel

DIMANCHE, 11 heures, quartier général de ceux qui font la pluie et le beau temps, à l'aéroport de Maraga. "Nous sommes débordés" lance un employé. A l'extérieur, la neige, toujours la neige. Un temps à ne pas mettre un Jordanien dehors.

Au chaud, le bureau du directeur, Rafiq Jamil Shaker, grouille de monde. Sa table de travail est inondée de cartes. Ce petit homme, costume bleu marine, pull-over gris et cravate noire ne cesse de décrocher son téléphone rouge. Au bout du fil, le roi Hussein, en personne, le cabinet du premier ministre, Zaid ben Shaker, la radio, la télévision et les journaux. Ces jours derniers, Rafiq Jamil Shaker était sans nul doute la personnalité la plus importante du pays. En l'absence du grand chef, Ali Abandah, en réunion à Genève, c'est lui qui utilisait le téléphone à la couleur légendaire.

"La Jordanie est affectée par une dépression centrée sur le sud-est de Chypre, associée à une masse d'air froid, ce temps va persister, la neige va continuer à tomber au dessus de 500 mètres" dit Rafiq Jamil Shaker. Le langage est intelligible et décrypté. Au diable, les expressions trop techniques.

24 h sur 24

En coulisses et totalement invisible par le commun des mortels, un travail d'équipe. Au total, 284 employés sont aux quatre coins du pays. Les services sont assurés 24 h sur 24. La nuit, une dizaine de spécialistes du Centre National ouvrent leurs antennes. Quoi qu'il arrive. "Lorsque la situation est difficile, nous devons aider nos collaborateurs à se rendre sur leur lieu de travail, affirme Rafiq Jamil Shaker, c'est pourquoi nous affrions des bus spéciaux de ramassage".

Dans toute la Jordanie, 35 stations locales distillent des informations et des bilans précis. Dans les quartiers-ouest d'Amman, les précipitations enregistrées depuis le mois d'octobre ont battu des records:



Rafiq Jamil Shaker au téléphone... rouge

818 millimètres, ce qui représente 281% de la moyenne, calculée sur les quarante dernières années.

A Madaba, Salt, Zarqa ou Maraga, ce pourcentage ne passe pas en dessous de la barre des 200. Dans l'extrême-sud de la Jordanie, la tendance est identique: 55% pour la ville côtière d'Aqaba. De quoi décourager le touriste moyen, fût-il scandinave, jusqu'au bout des moufles.

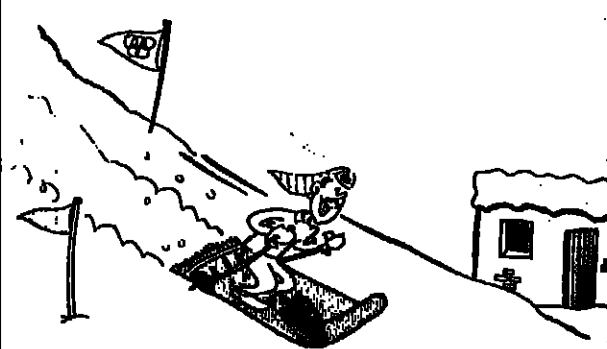
A Amman, les services de Maraga jouent le rôle de bureau centralisateur. Une véritable zone tampon entre les usagers, les bureaux régionaux et les instances internationales. "Nous recevons des analyses du centre de météorologie de Munich et de beaucoup d'autres dans le monde", affirme Rafiq Jamil Shaker. Amman fait partie de la "World Meteorological Organization". La base jordannienne envoie et reçoit des informations toutes les trois heures.

Les services jordanniens, créés en 1952, ont mis longtemps à se

tailler une réputation. Depuis 1988, le Centre National a pris son envol. La Jordanie dispose du système radar, de tout un réseau d'ordinateurs et des informations du satellite "Météosat". "Nous analysons les photos des nuages. Nous en déduisons leur altitude et leur température", dit Rafiq Jamil Shaker. Voilà pour les calculs les plus élémentaires. Les services de la météo jordannienne savent aussi prendre du recul. "C'est une année exceptionnelle, à cause de l'arrivée du courant El Niño tout près de l'Equateur. Résultat: la chaleur qui trouve son origine dans la température de l'eau a bouleversé la circulation habituelle de l'air. Ce phénomène a affecté une large zone comprenant la Jordanie". Rassurez-vous: "Cela ne se produit que tous les 10 ans".

Francis Mazoyer

J.O RDANIE 92



L'EDITO

Le Général Neige

IL EST bien connu des Jordaniens. En général, il vient faire une petite visite au mois de février. Au cours des années précédentes, ses séjours étaient courts et donc agréables. Cette fois, il paraît qu'il est devenu vieux. Son mouvement est devenu lent. Qui sait, peut-être a-t-il des rhumatismes?

Le plus inquiétant: il a décidé de prolonger son séjour chez nous. Il y a un mois et demi, il est passé... Nous étions étonnés! C'était la première fois depuis trente-cinq ans qu'il venait si tôt. Tout de même, nous l'avons bien reçu. Nous lui avons offert notre légendaire hospitalité, du café et du thé. Nous croyions que la visite était terminée. Nous étions dans le froid. A peine nous a-t-il quittés, qu'il est revenu avec plus de rigueur encore. Partout, il a déployé son tapage blanc.

La troisième visite a suscité la panique générale. Car cette fois, le général s'est montré très sévère. Il était accompagné de plusieurs divisions: le froid, la pluie, le verglas, les inondations... Question incontournable: sommes-nous en Jordanie ou en Sibérie?

Peu avant son retour, les gens se sont mis à trembler. Ils sont précipités chez les boulangers ou les épiciers pour faire des provisions. Une véritable ruée. Les Jordaniens ont également emmagasiné le plus possible de carburants. Bien que cette dernière soit disponible partout et à tout moment.

Les visites du général sont devenues encombrantes. Elles perturbent la vie à tous les niveaux: écoles, routes, téléphones et même Parlement!

Au lieu de l'accueillir, comme on le faisait il n'y a pas longtemps, on s'enferme. On se saoule de télévision. On joue aux cartes. Les femmes se téléphonent, quand les lignes ne sont pas coupées. Malgré toutes ces occupations, l'ennui commence à gagner la population. Le général ne nous a pas habitués à des séjours prolongés.

Reconnaissons le tout de même. Le visiteur a ses bons côtés. Il permet d'éviter la traditionnelle crise de l'eau. Les barrages sont pleins. Et le général mérite une médaille. Tout le monde est satisfait, et pas seulement les agriculteurs. Malgré les campagnes du général, malgré tous ses défauts, nous sommes contents, au fond, de l'accueillir... avec des manteaux, parapluies et autres accessoires, désormais indispensables à la garde robe de tout Jordanien.

A VOIR...

■ PEINTURES D'ENFANTS - Mardi 11 février, au CCF, le vernissage de l'exposition "Peintures d'enfants", de l'école maternelle française d'Amman a été maintenu. Malgré les intempéries. Les groupes scolaires sont attendus nombreux à cette "expo" qui formera ses portes le 26 février.

■ VILLEGIATURES - Toujours au CCF, du lundi 17 au samedi 29, une exposition qui propose une photographie et littéraire, sur les traces de cinq écrivains: Cendrars, Virginia Woolf, Pierre Reverdy, Scott Fitzgerald, Nizkische. Point commun entre ces auteurs: leur fascination pour la Côte d'Azur.

■ CINEMA - Lundi 17, à 20h00, au CCF, "L'ami de mon oncle" (1988), d'Eric Rohmer, avec Sophie Renoir.

Super Bowl

America's greatest sporting event

By Michael Casey
Special to The Star

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — It was a yearly pilgrimage to see the greatest sports event in the world. To others, it was a week of excess that only typified America's ability to waste money on a football match.

Ignoring the soaring unemployment rate and growing economic problem.

Whether the reaction, people worldwide and especially in Minnesota could not ignore the annual Super Bowl.

Chutes were planned around the January 26th event, thousands of billboards and giant footprints announced its arrival and the city of Minneapolis was filled with the roar of Muhammad Ali.

The game itself was a traditional blowout as 60,000 fans in the Washington Redskins defeated the Buffalo Bills by a lopsided 37-24 score.

For most fans, however, it was the food and entertainment before the game that made this a special American event. Crowds gathered just after sunset and the city was filled with the roar of the game.

Another fan nearby criticized those who wanted a typical warm weather city to host the big game, as Tampa, Florida did last year. Instead, Bill Dmacek of New York said he'd like it a tad colder than the 20 degrees Fahrenheit (around minus 7 centigrade).

"It's too warm," said Dmacek, as he enjoyed a beer and warmed his socks over the charcoal heater. "This is the closest thing to Buffalo's cold weather."

Between the screams and cheers for each team, there were the plenty of football fanatics looking for tickets before game time or trying to sell their remaining extras for as much as \$400.

"I came all the way from Cincinnati (Ohio) and we haven't seen as many offers for tickets as expected. I'll pay from \$250 to \$300 for tickets," said Troy Mason, as he held a sign requesting two tickets. "If we don't get any, at least we can say we were here."

The intense commercialism, from ticket cost to advertising the Super Bowl, was best summed up by French journalist Olivier Villepreux.

"There is nothing like the Super Bowl in France because there is nothing like it in terms of business dimensions," said the L'Equipe Magazine reporter who was one of 300 foreign journalists at the Super Bowl. "I will tell people back home that they must go and see it. But, I won't be shouting about the experience."

As game time approached, 300 police on horseback and foot monitored the circus atmosphere. People, from those trying to sell television sets for \$100 to protesters speaking out on issues from domestic abuse to the Gulf War, were hoping to get the attention of the media as well as the drunken and rowdy football fans.

What got the most attention was a march calling the Washington Redskins name and the use of Indian costumes by the team's fans racist. Standing near a topee (traditional Indian

braved the snow to sell their Super Bowl sweat-shirts, Redskins blankets, baseball caps and other assorted souvenirs. Most said business was brisk including one man from Cleveland, Ohio who claimed he's sold a truckload of pennants by game time.

Minnesotans and fans who could not get one of the \$150 game tickets started filling the beer and soda tents scattered around the stadium while a few more fans got the grills out and cooked out their hot dogs and hamburgers. "This is football weather," said Larry Gritz of New York, who paid \$4,000 for eight Super Bowl tickets. "This is the way it's supposed to be."

house), Indian activists criticized the name Redskins as racist and as many as 3,000 protesters marched around the stadium demanding a name change by the team.

"We've given you everything you have — water, land, minerals — please leave our culture alone," said Vernon Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement, who also was part of a protest requesting the Atlanta Braves baseball team to change their name. "Stop using us for your entertainment."

However, not all the Redskins took the criticism to heart. One fan, Vance Rego, started arguing with protesters and defending his wearing Redskins headgear, sunglasses and cap.

I think it's a lot of baloney and I don't see people on the East Coast yelling about the racism of calling a team Yankees (New York Yankees baseball team) or the Vikings (Minnesota Vikings football team)," Rego said. "I think it's a lot of hogwash."

Though Indian leaders spent nearly a week calling for a name change to the Redskins and some Washington football players agreed the name was degrading to Indians, the team's owner refused to budge.

"Indians stand for decency, valor, bravery and heroics," said Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke. "They were the precursors to the great race of whites who came to this country. The team name is simply a symbol of what all of us believe is American."

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What got the most attention was a march calling the Washington Redskins name and the use of Indian costumes by the team's fans racist. Standing near a topee (traditional Indian



Redskins running back Riggs blasts over from the one-yard line in 3rd-quarter action

Agenda

Films

■ The American Cultural Center will present tonight the winner of three Academy Awards film "Glory" at 7 pm. The film will be shown again next Sunday 20 February, same time.

■ The British Council will be presenting the film "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning" on Monday 17 February at 7 pm.

■ Also at the British Council, the film "A Taste of Honey" will be shown on Wednesday 19 February at 7 pm.

■ The French Cultural Center will be presenting the film "L'ami de mon oncle" on Monday 17 February at 8 pm.

Lectures

■ At the Goethe Institute Amman, Dr Pierre Bikal will give a lecture on "ACOR's Projects in Jordan" on Saturday 15 February at 7 pm.

Field trips

■ Friends of Archaeology will conduct tomorrow Friday a field trip to Tell Abu Sarbut and Polla. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot at 9 am in private cars. Also the annual

can.

No one was arrested during the protest and the crowds broke up as the game began. Inside the stadium, event coordinators worked on last minute details and the mostly rich white audience settled into their seats or private suites to watch the game.

For this reporter, all that was left was to find the media box and catch a last glimpse of celebrities as they tried to avoid screaming fans and waiters with trays of fresh appetizers. Reports of celebrities were everywhere with vendors and security guards having the leads whether former President Jimmy Carter, music star Prince or President Bush's Secretary of Housing Jack Kemp had been seen. The game itself, save a glitzy halftime performance with dancing snowflakes, smoking snowmobiles and the singing of Gloria Estefan, was subdued and felt more or less like just another Minnesota Vikings football game.

As the final buzzer sounded, the hoopla behind the Super Bowl seemed to end as fast as it built up. Nearly \$47 million, enough to get Jordan's economy back on track, went into the coffers of downtown business owners.

"I just think there was too much effort put into the Super Bowl," said Izzideen Abu-Saleh, originally from Amman. "They should be putting their energy and money into other things like homelessness or those going hungry."

general meeting of FoA is planned for Monday 17 February at 7 pm at the Department of Antiquities Registration Center Third Circle. Elections for the committee are the main purpose of the meeting, but it will also be a chance to assess the FoA's 1991 activities. This year's plans include a trip to Sinai in April and to Oman later in the year. Monday's meeting will also include a slide presentation of Jordan by Dr Gaetano Palumbo.

Exhibitions

■ At the Spanish Cultural Center, the art exhibition of artist Sohad Lachiri, opened yesterday, will run until 1 March. Visitors are welcome daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 3-7 pm (except Fridays and Sundays).

■ At Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, the paintings exhibition of Shaker Hasan Al Sald will run until 29 February. The exhibition is open to public daily from 10 am to 5 pm, and on Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm.

■ At Aila Art Gallery, the oil and water colour paintings of artists Tete Wegelius, Huda Bitar, Lucy Mario and Jennifer Bowker will run until 18 February, daily from 10 am to 1:30 pm and from 4-7 pm.

■ At the French Cultural Center, there will be an exhibition entitled "Villegiatures—des écrivains sur la Côte" from 17-29 February...

ers. Minnesotans, mostly unaffected by the economic benefits, had mixed emotions about the Big Game and its impact on their daily routine.

"I think it was an opportunity to introduce a lot of people throughout the world to Minnesota," said Lindsay Strand, media relations manager for the Minnesota Super Bowl XXVI Task Force. "You had everything from upgraded port potties, to warming tents with televisions to the protesters. But, nothing was so overwhelming that you couldn't make your own choice of what you wanted to see," said Strand, adding that everything including managing the excessive number of limousines went smoothly.

A Palestinian shopkeeper on the outskirts of Minneapolis agreed the Super Bowl had little impact on him and questioned why there was so much effort put into it.

"I just think there was too much effort put into the Super Bowl," said Izzideen Abu-Saleh, originally from Amman. "They should be putting their energy and money into other things like homelessness or those going hungry."

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
15-21
February

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos: As usual the audience chooses the best and funniest video, while the winner gets the \$10,000 prize.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — In Search of the Past: Tonight's documentary program sheds light on the civilization and empire of the Hittites in Anatolia and Turkey's efforts to restore and conserve their ruins.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film, "Angel of Death" Starring Gregory Harrison: A runaway prisoner tries to justify the crimes he commits in the name of love.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest. "Lonely Are the Brave": Head of the police department decides to give Barbara a medal in appreciation of her distinguished services. Her sister burns with envy.
9:10 — A documentary program.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order. "Poison Ivy": A black university student is killed by a policeman in an alley at night. Investigations show that the victim is a drug dealer.

MONDAY

8:30 — Land of Hope and Gloria. "Beaumont House": Beaumont House is a typical British mansion with a new director, who is an American black woman.
9:10 — Capital City: A new clerk, Allison, joins the bank and has a hard time, while Max and Hudson work on a deal for a Brazilian environmental society.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — The Elite.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Evening Shade: Herman and friends go to prison, after a party, for breaking the law.
9:10 — Golden Years.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — G.B.H.: Michael hires a private detective to investigate the whereabouts of his mother and a girl he knew when he was younger. His opponents try to use his past against him.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Tiesch. "Pizza My Heart": Freeman falls in trouble with his girlfriend Rita.
9:10 — A documentary program.
10:20 — The Burning Shore. Starring Isabelle Gilenas: Two Africans find a girl unconscious at the sea shore; they nurse her and take care of her for months before a search expedition gets



NBA
Basketball
on Thursday
at 9:10

THURSDAY

8:30 — Spatz New Comedy. "The Royal Visit": The committee from London prepares to open the Spatz restaurant for fast foods; and the owner's wife goes through a final check-up before they arrive.
9:10 — NBA basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the week: "Brother by Choice" Starring Charlie Higgins: Scott is not on good terms with his father so he runs away. His brother, Brett, goes after him in an effort to dissuade him.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Lenny: Lenny's wife expected him to receive a fat reward for having returned a wallet that he found.
9:10 — Derrick. "Tod Bines Junger": Under certain conditions, even gentle people can be murderers.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Chancer: Stephen is offered a job by Franklin, Jo's father. Meanwhile Jamie, Robert Douglas's son, commits suicide in the woods.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine: A series about a family, each time the story is different.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — La Maison Bleue. A new cartoon series for children.
5:45 — Géostop. A documentary program.

6:10 — L'école des fans. A program in which children sing the songs of their favourite singers.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A musical program.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about life in the seas.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Bouli. A cartoon series for children.
6:15 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. A series about two doctors. Each time a different story.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties. A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. A variety and a cultural program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique Magazine. The Agriculture magazine.

JEUDI

6:00 — Montagne Mama Coga: A documentary program about the annual and traditional celebration for the Coglaves.
6:30 — Maguy. A series about Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — International Circus.

VENREDI

5:30 — Le Gorille sans cravate. A detective series.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusion. A cultural magazine.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Your relations with certain friends could be sensitive now. Seek privacy to meditate on an inner conflict. A family obligation should be attended to immediately. Be conservative in spending.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Word-of-mouth praise goes around to you. You reap new rewards for past work and find out how much your efforts are appreciated. Escape from the "rat race" with a trip to the country!

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Do not seal an agreement with only a handshake. Get all promises in writing for your own protection. A family reunion will bring back many happy memories. You need time to unwind.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): You could have good reason to be uneasy about a pending meeting. Your intuition is right on target! Jot down your creative ideas before they get away from you. Romantic ties intensify.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Someone close to you could put you in a difficult position. Take care of family obligations promptly. Be mindful not to ride roughshod over your loved ones.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Nagging or being a stickler for details will infuriate a partner who wants you to be more affectionate. You do not have to travel to enjoy a relaxing vacation. Use your green thumb.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): If you are feeling uplifted, take a break from your weekend routine. A change of pace will do you good. Renew old friendships. Make reservations to dine in an out-of-the-way place.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Your positive attitude is your best asset when things get rough. Spend more time with children. Let them pick where you will go or what you will do together. Open new lines of communication.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Research provides answers you can use to advantage in the future. Postpone real estate negotiations until more information is available. Make those tough decisions regarding family finances.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Family life could be tense if you are inflexible or too opinionated. A temporary change of environment is the perfect remedy for boredom or frustration. Analyze your dreams to gain new insights.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Sincerity is the key to greater romantic fulfillment. Wear your heart on your sleeve. An impulsive decision could boomerang. Postpone making any financial commitments until next week.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): You cannot afford to ignore about important matters. Check things out and ask probing questions. Family members offer you their whole-hearted support. Set a good example for young people.

Under the Patronage of Their Highnesses
Prince Raed and Princess Majida



The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation
and
The Embassy of Japan
present
**The Japanese Percussion Ensemble
JUNDO RENZAN and the «RYU»**
a
Gala Production of drumming, singing and dancing
Wednesday, February 19, 1992 - 7:00 p.m.
The Palace of Culture - Al Hussein Youth City

Tickets for JD 5, 3 and 2 are available at:
• The Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 661026 • The Japanese Embassy, tel. 62406
• Balch, tel. 661322 • Suleway, tel. 663111
• Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 665100 • Gallery Plastic, tel. 663291
• The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687420

Would You believe....

The Mason-Dixon line only exists. It was a boundary laid out by two English surveyors. You can probably guess the surveyors' last names: Mason and Dixon.

Doctors have identified a disorder called Münchhausen's syndrome, in which a parent purposely makes his or her child sick to draw attention to the child.

The infamous Jack the Ripper was never positively identified or caught.

Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula was only 33 when he took the helm of the first professional football team.

The first daily airplane service from New York to Paris was established way back in 1919.

There are only about 100 Japanese as U.S. residents.

Solution

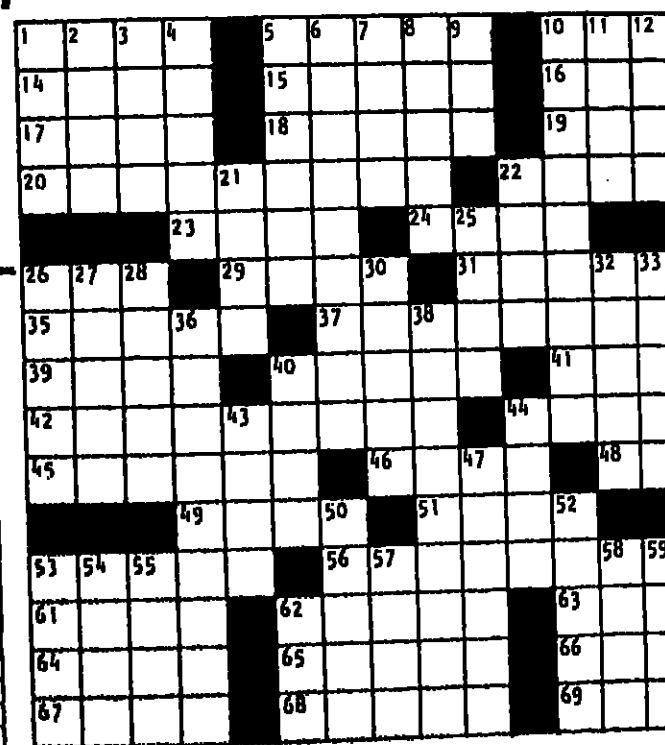
1 Across: Succulent plant
2 Down: Fast horse
3 Across: Molding device
4 Down: Not on tape
5 Across: Enjoy a book
6 Down: Planet
7 Across: Latvian port
8 Down: Safe
9 Across: Destroy by degress
10 Down: Practical
11 Across: Inferior
12 Down: Ms. Barrett
13 Across: Strong feeling
14 Down: Worship
15 Across: Unctuous
16 Down: Two-way excursion
17 Across: Prove to be true
18 Down: Ireland
19 Across: Church council regulation
20 Down: Tiny plant
21 Across: Tinted
22 Down: Impertinence
23 Across: Prod
24 Down: "Citizen"
25 Across: Certain sweetener
26 Down: Places
27 Across: Work on dough
28 Down: With great surprise
29 Across: Injure
30 Down: Adversary
31 Across: Mild oath
32 Down: A Paron
33 Across: Exile
34 Down: Bravery
35 Across: Mineral bed
36 Down: Seraglio
37 Across: Patriotic song
38 Down: Short jackets
39 Across: Donates
40 Down: Repairs
41 Across: Mild
42 Down: Newspaper article
43 Across: Urgently eager
44 Down: Laborer

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Succulent plant
5 Atomize
10 Enjoy a book
14 Latvian port
15 Destroy by degress
16 Unctuous
17 Prove to be true
18 Church council regulation
19 Prod
20 Certain sweetener
22 Work on dough
23 Injure
24 Mild oath
28 Exile
29 Mineral bed
31 Patriotic song
35 Donates
37 Mild
39 Urgently eager

DOWN
2 Fast horse
3 Molding device
4 Planet
6 Practical
7 Ms. Barrett
8 Worship
9 Strong feeling
10 Two-way excursion
11 Ireland
12 Tiny plant
13 Tinted
21 Impertinence
22 "Citizen"
25 Places
26 With great surprise
27 Adversary
28 A Paron
30 Bravery
32 Seraglio
33 Short jackets
34 Repairs
36 Newspaper article

38 Play of sorts
40 Give employment to
43 Depend
44 Halt; prof.
47 Fresh like the spring
50 Scarlett or John
52 Overcharge
53 Metal refuse
54 Fountain order
55 Pinnacle
57 Atop
58 He had an Irish Rose
59 Verne captain
60 Great spirit
62 Fighter's punch



JORDAN BRIDGE

Ghassan Ghanem

Hands from Egypt

INTERNATIONAL Bridge Festival of Cairo concluded this week. Awwad Had-Admad Al-Aoui finished third in the while Marwan Ghanem and I finished fourth.

Placing provided the best Jordanian ever in the open pairs event of the festival, previously, on 1985, Marwan and I finished fourth.

The bidding is the most important aspect of the game, accordingly I will give two hands that provided good results:

Hand 1:
N S W E
K 7
J 9 6 5 4 2
A K Q 5 4
—

(Ghassan)
1♠
2♠
3♠
4♠ (1)
5♠ (1)
6♠ (1)

(Marwan)
2♥
3♥
4♥ (1)
5♥ (1)
6♥
6♠

At the first glance it looked like we missed the grand, but the hand produced 109 out of the available 128 match points.

Hand 2:
N S W E
K 8 6 5 4
K Q 8 7 3
A 3
K

(Ghassan)
1♠
2♠
3♥ (2)
4♥

(Marwan)
2♥ (1)
3♥
3♠

(1) Transfer to 2♠, showing a strong raise to 2♠.
(2) Deviating, showing game values.

The hand produced 121 out of 128 match points. Now, take this hand and try to find the best line to play the contract:

Hand 3:
N S W E
K 9 7
A 6
J 4 3 2
K 10 9 6

(Ghassan)
1♠
2♠
3♥ (1)
4♥ (1)
5♥ (1)
6♥

(Marwan)
2♥
3♥
4♥ (1)
5♥ (1)
6♥
6♠

West declares 4♥ after North opens 1♠-17 points 1N and doubles the final contract then leads the ♠K and continues with the ♠A.
More about this hand next week.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Hold it right there, Doreen! ... Leave if you must — but the dog stays!"



The livestock would gather every morning, hoping for one of Farmer Dan's popular "airplane" rides.